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FINAL BLOW TO THE
COLONIAL RULE

MONEY 9
GOVT TO TWEAK PLI SCHEMES FOR
PHARMA, TEXTILES, DRONE SECTORS

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BIDEN LAUDS G20
ACHIEVEMENTS

DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
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TRUDEAU UNLEASHES KHALISTANIS ON INDIA

Canada PM breaches trust, blames India for terrorist's murder

RAHUL DATTA ■ NEW DELHI

A massive dispute has flared up between Canada and India. In a retaliatory move, New Delhi expelled a Canadian diplomat shortly after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau asserted in Parliament that there were "credible allegations of a potential connection" between Indian Government agents and the killing of Khalistani leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada in June. Canada also expelled a high-ranking Indian diplomat.

Taking exception to this, India on Tuesday asked a Canadian diplomat to leave the country within five days and rejected Trudeau's statement.

In a strongly worded statement, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) termed as "absurd" and "motivated" the Canadian Prime Minister's allegations late on Monday in the House of Commons that there were "potential" Indian links to the killing of the Khalistani separatist leader.

"That Canadian political figures have openly expressed sympathy for such elements remains a matter of deep concern. The space given in Canada to a range of illegal activities including murders, human trafficking and organised crime is not new... We reject any attempts to connect

the Government of India to such developments. We urge the Government of Canada to take prompt and effective legal action against all anti-India elements operating from their soil," the MEA said.

In a strong reaction to remarks by Trudeau and the Canadian Foreign Minister, the MEA said such "unsubstantiated" allegations seek to "shift the focus from Khalistani terrorists and extremists, who have been provided shelter in Canada and continue to threaten India's sovereignty and territorial integrity."

However, on Tuesday Trudeau said, "We are not looking to provoke or escalate the issue."

Canadian High Commissioner to India Cameron MacKay was summoned and informed about the decision to expel the senior official, with the MEA saying the move reflects New Delhi's growing concern at the "interference of Canadian diplomats in our internal matters and their involvement in anti-India activities."

The Congress backed the Government's action and said the country's interests and concerns must be kept paramount and its fight against terrorism has to be uncompromising. "The Indian National Congress has always believed that our



Canada Prime Minister Justin Trudeau delivers a statement in the House of Commons on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. AP/PTI

country's fight against terrorism is has to be uncompromising, especially when terrorism threatens India's sovereignty, unity and integrity," Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said in a post on X. "Our country's interests and concerns must be kept paramount at all times," he added.

Though the MEA did not divulge the name of the Canadian diplomat who has been asked to leave India within five days, people familiar with the matter said it is the Canadian intelligence agency's

station chief in New Delhi Olivier Sylvestre.

The Indian action to expel the Canadian diplomat came hours after Canada's Foreign Minister Melanie Joly announced that a "top Indian diplomat" has been expelled from Canada in view of the alleged links to the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a Canadian Khalistani leader. He was shot dead by two gunmen in Surrey in June.

Joly's office said the diplomat is Pavan Kumar Rai, the head of the Research and

unacceptable violation of our sovereignty... It is contrary to the fundamental rules by which free, open and democratic societies conduct themselves," he said. "As you would expect, we have been working closely and coordinating with our allies on this very serious matter."

He also said he had raised with Prime Minister Modi the issue during their meeting on the sidelines of the G20 summit in New Delhi earlier this month. Trudeau urged the Indian government to "cooperate with Canada to get to the bottom of this matter."

The ties between India and Canada have come under strain in view of New Delhi's concerns over increasing activities of Khalistani elements in that country. Last week, the talks on a bilateral free trade agreement were frozen apparently in view of the deteriorating ties.

"The high commissioner of Canada to India was summoned today and informed about the decision of the Government of India to expel a senior Canadian diplomat based in India. The concerned diplomat has been asked to leave India within the next five days," the MEA said, adding, "We have seen and rejected the statement of the Canadian PM, as also the statement by their Foreign Minister."

Continued on Page 9

Congress leader shot, Canada-based ultra claims responsibility

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

In a chilling incident that has lent shock waves through Moga district in Punjab, local Congress leader Baljinder Singh Balli (45) was shot at his residence in Dala village late on Monday. The assailants, believed to be two in number, arrived on a motorcycle, with one entering Balli's home while the other kept watch outside.

Hours after the gruesome incident, fugitive gangster and Canada-based Khalistani terrorist Arshdeep Singh Gill, notoriously known as Arsh Dala, claimed responsibility for Balli's murder through a Facebook post.

Dala, in his post written in Punjabi, attributed his actions to Balli's alleged involvement in crime and harassment of his mother. The post alluded to a longstanding vendetta fueled by personal and political grievances.

In disturbing CCTV footage capturing the incident,

a gunman can be seen forcefully entering the premises just as Balli, also known as 'nambardar' in the community, stood on his porch. Without hesitation, the assailant opened fire, striking Balli twice — once in the chest and once in the thigh. The injured leader was rushed to the hospital, but tragically, he succumbed to his injuries, according to the police.

Arsh Dala wrote: "I am responsible for the murder of Balli in Dala village because it was my own village's politics which had made me tread this path. This man (Balli) was responsible for keeping my mother in CIA (police) custody for a week and he also got my friends arrested. He was hand in glove with police. He destroyed my home just to gain his own afsar shaahi"

Notably, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs had designated Arsh Dala a terrorist earlier this year due to his involvement in a range of heinous crimes.

Women's quota Bill tabled

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

After an inordinate delay, the much awaited and long-pending demand of several political parties, the Centre on Tuesday introduced a Bill to provide 33 per cent reservation to women in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies. The Bill, known as the "Narishakti Vandan Adhiniyam", was introduced and became the first Bill to be taken up for discussion and passage in the new Parliament building.

Officials said even if the Bill is passed during the ongoing Special Session, its implementation may still take some time and is unlikely to be in force for the next Lok Sabha elections in 2024 as the reservation will come into effect only after a delimitation exercise is completed.

The Bill will need to overcome several hurdles before becoming a reality, including support cutting across political lines and early census and delimitation exercise.

Lok Sabha data shows that women MPs account for nearly 15 per cent of the lower House's strength while their



Congress members celebrate the Women's Reservation Bill in New Delhi on Tuesday. Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

representation is below 10 per cent in many State Assemblies.

In the present Lok Sabha, 82 women members were elected which account for less than 15 per cent of the total strength of 543. In the Rajya Sabha also, women's representation is about 14 per cent, according to the data shared by the Government with Parliament last December.

The provisions in the Constitution (128th Amendment) Bill make it clear that the women's reservation will come into effect only after

the delimitation exercise or the redrawing of constituencies taking into account the data of the census conducted once the bill becomes a law.

Constitutional experts said after the passage of the Bill by both Houses of Parliament, it will also have to be approved by at least 50 per cent of State Assemblies to become a law.

According to Article 82 of the Constitution, amended in 2002, the delimitation process can be carried out based on the first Census taken after 2026.

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LeT commander killed, Anantnag Operation ends

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

One of the longest counter-terrorist operations in Kashmir Valley in recent times ended on its seventh day with the recovery of the dead body of Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) commander Uzair Khan from inside the Garol forest area of Kokernag in the South Kashmir district of Anantnag on Tuesday.

A massive manhunt was launched by the joint team of security forces in the dense forest area after three senior officers, including Colonel Manpreet Singh, Commanding Officer, 19 Rashtriya Rifles, Major Ashish Dhonchak, and Deputy Superintendent of Jammu & Kashmir Police Humayun Bhat, were martyred in action during an intense fire-fight with a group of terrorists on September 13.

On Monday, the security forces recovered the body of Sepoy Pardeep Singh, who went missing after the operation was launched.

A total number of four

Continued on Page 9

Modi unveils his vision in new Parliament

DEEPAK K UPRETI/DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

Heralding a new chapter by stepping into a new Parliament building, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday called for expanding the canvas to build a stronger India, and said all reforms and new laws going forward must have rising aspirations of the country as their priority.

Addressing a function first at the Central Hall of the old Parliament building, Modi said that a big picture cannot be painted on a small canvas and the idea of a grand India cannot be envisioned if the members do not think big. Later, the PM addressed as the first speaker, alongside the Presiding Officers of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, in both Houses.

Marking a historical turn in the legislative empowerment of women in the country, the Modi Government also introduced a Constitution



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with Union Ministers Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh and other parliamentarians, enters the new Parliament building, in New Delhi, on Tuesday. PTI

amendment Bill, "Narishakti Vandan Adhiniyam", for 33 per cent quota for women in the Lok Sabha and Assemblies in the new Parliament.

Members bid adieu to the old one, which has completed 96 years of its existence.

In his first speech in the

first session in the new Parliament building, Modi underlined the role of politics in the effective transformation of society and said Indian women have immensely contributed in sectors ranging from space to sports and start-ups to self-help groups.

Recounting the laws passed in the old Parliament building, Modi said Muslim mothers and sisters got justice as the law against "triple talaq" was unitedly passed from here. "In the last few years, Parliament has also passed laws giving justice to the transgenders. We have unitedly passed laws that will guarantee a bright future for the specially-abled people. It is our privilege that we got the opportunity to abrogate Article 370," he said.

It was an emotional moment not only for the Parliamentarians, but the officials, support staff like that of pantry, gardening, security system people to be witness to the grand transition by keeping up with the heritage yet writing a history for generations to come in what will be called the Parliament House of India.

The old Parliament building will now be known as "Samvidhan Sadan" as suggested by Modi.

Continued on Page 9

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Woman duped of Rs 8 lakh

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Two miscreants duped a woman of Rs 8 lakh on the pretext of offering her a job in a government department, in Ashiyana.

The woman, Preeti Saxena of Para worked as a part-timer in a private company. She was contacted by one of the accused, Anuj Srivastava of Rae Bareli, who encouraged her to pursue a full-time job in a government department.

Preeti was surprised by the call since she didn't know the caller. She inquired about how he obtained her mobile number. Anuj claimed that he received the number through a common friend and requested her to meet him at Alambagh Bus Station.

Anuj also introduced her to one Anand Mishra of Sector O in LDA Colony, claiming that Anand worked in the secretariat and had good connections with higher government officials.

A few days later, the duo informed her that they had secured a job for her, but she needed to pay Rs 8 lakh to the officials. Preeti immediately refused the job offer as

“I transferred Rs 1,49,325 to Anand’s bank account and gave the remaining amount in cash in order to secure the job”

she had no money to pay bribe. Anuj contacted her again, offering to arrange an Rs 8 lakh loan from Union Bank of India in Ashiyana, with the condition that she would repay it after getting the job. Preeti agreed to this proposal and she gave her adhaar card and other documents to Anuj.

“I transferred Rs 1,49,325 to Anand’s bank account and gave the remaining amount in cash in order to secure the job,” she added.

The victim said that she now has a loan of Rs 8 lakh and Anand did not fulfill his promise to get her the job. He even threatened her with dire consequences.

The police registered a case on a complaint given by the victim and started the investigation.

Promote research at Lohia Institute: CS



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Secretary Durga Shankar Mishra, on Tuesday, stressed upon the need to increase resources to promote high-level clinical trials and research at the Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow

The Chief Secretary was addressing the 39th Board of Governors meeting of the institute.

The Board gave its approval for the establishment of SAKSHAM (Strategic Advancement for Knowledge Driven Start Ups and Holistic Acceleration and Management) Tech Med Foundation — STF — under the start-up policy of the state government .

In order to speed up the purchase process in the institute, the Board approved a High-Level Purchase Committee (High Level Purchase Committee) for purchasing equipments worth Rs 50.00 lakh and above, Principal Secretary, Medical Education, heading the committee

Approval was given on the issue of purchase order by the Institute Director and instructions were given that the list of such approved equipment should be presented in the upcoming Board of Governors meeting for perusal and information.

The Board approved the rules and regulations for undergraduate courses (MMBS), postgraduate courses (MD, MS, DNB, DM and MCh) and paramedical courses (B.Sc Nursing) of the institute. Approval was also given on the fees for these courses of the institute and payment of stipend to students during the period of internship required in the said courses.

Apart from this, the board gave approval for setting up a state-of-the-art skill lab in the College of Nursing and instructions were given to obtain a grant for the skill lab through NHM.

The meeting also gave approval to the appointment of Prof. Pradyuman Singh as the new Dean of the Institute.

Mayor reviews civic facilities

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Aiming to review development works and functioning of govt departments providing civic facilities in the city, Mayor Sushma Kharkwal instructed officials to hold zone-wise review meetings.

One her part, she held a meeting with staff of the engineering department, tax department, health department, water department, roadlighting department of Zone-1 on Tuesday.

On a request of councillors, a provision was made to provide 10 sanitation workers in all wards. Orders were also given to remove encroachments from all accessible toilets and their surroundings in Zone-1.

It was also decided in the meeting to remove encroachments around Udaiganj trisection, vegetable market and the 1090 crossing.

Instructions were also given to the Assistant Engineer (Electrical) by the Mayor to provide 50 street-lights to all Councillors of Zone-1 by September 30 and to provide ladders and safety-related equipment to the employees posted in each ward.

The Mayor also instructed the Jal Kal department to lay the sewerlines near Aminabad police post and BN Verma Road and water pipelines in two localities of Mashak Ganj-Wazirganj ward.

The Mayor also asked the tax department to set up tax assessment and collection camps in every ward.



Ganesh idol installed at Jhulelal Park on the occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi in Luknow on Tuesday

Pioneer

UP government to auction 11 mineral blocks

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a bid to harness the wealth of mineral resources, the government commenced the fourth phase of mineral block auctions.

The Geology and Mining department of the state government will auction a total of 11 different mineral blocks in the fourth phase as part of the strategic mission of the government aimed at enhancing the prosperity of Uttar Pradesh.

Through this initiative, the state government is poised to attract substantial investments and generate employment opportunities on a significant scale.

According to a department official, for a long time, Uttar Pradesh was dependent on other countries for various minerals. So, the state government has decided to use its own resources to meet state's needs, in addition to that of other states in the country. This will help stop imports while boosting export prospects in the state.

Besides, Uttar Pradesh will become self-reliant in the field of minerals while new employment opportunities will be available to the youth of the state through large-scale investment.

In the fourth phase, 11 mineral blocks are being auctioned. Of these, a maximum of 10 blocks are in Sonbhadra, while one

block is in Lalitpur in Bundelkhand. Sonbhadra includes 5 blocks of andalusite, 2 blocks of gold and 1 block each of sillimanite, iron ore and limestone whereas there is a block of iron ore in Lalitpur.

Notably, limestone plays a pivotal role in cement production, while iron ore is a vital component in the steel-making process, making these resources of paramount importance in various industries.

Prior to this, the government had conducted auctions in three phases in 2022 under the provisions of the Mineral Auction Rules, 2015, issued by the Government of India. In these auctions, three blocks were for the extraction of rock phosphate, a key raw material in the production of phosphate fertilizer, in Lalitpur.

Additionally, approval had also been granted for one block in Sonbhadra for the extraction of gold metal.

In addition to this, preparations are underway for the auction of four more mineral blocks in October. At the Government of India level, action is being taken to issue a global tender in October for one block related to the highly valuable platinum group metals found in Lalitpur district of Uttar Pradesh, one block of phosphate and two blocks of potash used in potash fertilizer production in Sonbhadra.

UPSRTC staff to get cybersecurity training

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Yogi government, in its efforts to establish a society free from fear and crime for the common people in Uttar Pradesh, has now initiated extensive efforts towards strengthening cyber security.

In this regard, the Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (UPSRTC) is organising a two-day hybrid mode-based cyber security training program for their employees to protect the bus ticketing system from hackers and cyber fraud.

Notably, the training workshop is scheduled to take place from September 21 to 22 at the headquarters of the UPSRTC and will be conducted by Innovader Infotech Private Limited, the executing agency for UPDESCO.

It is worth mentioning that various government and private institutions in the state are actively engaged in conducting comprehensive cyber security audits to assess the level of cyber security and provide the right direction.

Teen dies as prank goes wrong

Lucknow (PTI): A suicide prank by a 13-year-old boy here went too far when he was playing with a noose which accidentally got tightened, leading to his death, police said on Tuesday.

The teenager's mother, who is blind, was unable to come to his rescue, they added.

The incident took place on Sunday in Kanshiram colony of the Orai area here when Jayesh (13) was playing along with his younger sisters Mahak and Aastha, police outpost in-charge of Kanshiram colony Mohammad Arif said.

According to Arif, Jayesh, while playing had put a piece of cloth over his eyes and then put a noose using a rope around his neck. The rope was tied to a window.

The boy was sitting on a small table and fell down when the table accidentally got pushed while playing. As a result, the noose got tightened around Jayesh's neck and he died, Arif added.

According to the local residents and police, the children's mother Sangita was heard saying that had she been able to see, her son would not have died.

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Savrabh Aginhotri to Saurabh Aginhotri S/o, Durga Prasad R/o, 74, Satyam Vihar Awas Vikas No-1 Kalyanpur, Kanpur.

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Sudhanshu to Sudhanshu Shukla. In future me known as Sudhanshu Shukla S/o Ghan Shyam. Chilaula Raebareil. 229203

NOTICE

I have changed my name from MOBIN SHAHID to MOHAMMAD MUBIN SHAHID S/o MOHD SHAHID for all future purpose R/o H.No. 198/138 "A" NAZIR BAGH, Kanpur Nagar, U.P.

NOTICE

I have changed my name Spelling from Mohammad Mustakeem Ansari to Mohammad Mustaqeem Ansari. S/o Mohammad Naim R/o 88/177 Chaman Ganj Kanpur Nagar.

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Be it known to all that I have changed the name of my son Achyut Yadav to Vaidik Vikram Yadav in future he should be known as Vaidik Vikram Yadav S/o Ravi Bhushan Yadav Village Tiluswa Post Mailhabad, Lucknow.

सूचना

सूचित किया जाता है कि मेरा सही नाम मिथलेश सिंह पुत्री राजबली सिंह है, जो मेरे पैनाकार्ड, मेरे पति के सेवा अभिलेखों में अंकित है। नुतिवश मेरे आधार कार्ड संख्या 854993077017 में मेरा नाम राजकली सिंह अंकित हो गया है, जो मेरे घर का नाम है। उपरोक्त दोनों नाम मेरे ही हैं। भविष्य में मुझे मेरे सही नाम मिथलेश सिंह पत्नी खान सुन्दर सिंह के नाम से जाना पहचाना जाये। मिथलेश सिंह 278 / 66C तिलक नगर अल्लपुरा प्रयागराज।

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Notify that I have changed my name from Musarrat Jahan Begum to Musarrat Jahan for all purposes & records. Musarrat Jahan W/o Mohammad Shafiq 426/32 Dargah Road Near S B Modern School Lucknow U.P. 226003

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Mohammad Majid Ansari to Mohammad Majid Asim Ansari. In future I shall be known as Mohammad Majid Asim Ansari. Mohammad Majid Asim Ansari S/o Mohammad Asim Ansari, 48K/5K/1K, Gausnagar, Kareli, Allahabad.

CITYBRIEFS

FOUNDATION DAY

The department of Critical Care Medicine at SGPGIMS celebrated its 21st Annual Foundation Day on Tuesday. The celebration was focused on CME for Nurses of SGPGIMS and other hospitals of Lucknow. The theme of the CME was "Prevent Sepsis Save Lives". This CME was intended to sensitise and create awareness amongst the nursing staff in preventive aspects of Hospital Acquired Infections which contribute maximally to mortality in critically ill patients. The event was organised under the patronage of SGPGIMS director RK. Dhiman, and Critical Care Medicine HoD Banani Poddar.

BONE DENSITY CAMP ORGANISED

As a part of the World Physiotherapy Awareness Month, an awareness programme for pulmonary rehabilitation and a free Bone Mineral Density (BMD) camp was organised in the Department of Respiratory Medicine, KGMU on Tuesday. On this occasion, Head of the Department Surya Kant said that patients suffering from respiratory diseases often feel short of breath while running, climbing stairs or walking fast, hence they avoid walking, their bones become weak with age. "Such respiratory patients, who have been suffering from respiratory diseases for many years and are above 40 years of age, must get their bone mineral density (Bone Mineral Density) checked," he said.

TRAINING

A 10-day training programme on 'emerging tools and methodologies in conservation biology of fishes' will start on Wednesday at ICAR-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources, Lucknow. The training is being organised by the institute during September 20-29, 2023. The prime objective of this course is to train the scientists, faculty members, research scholars in emerging tools and methodologies in the conservation biology of fishes.

Amethi hospital's licence suspended after woman's death

Amethi (PTI): The health department here has suspended the licence of the Sanjay Gandhi Hospital in Munshiganj area of Amethi and halted OPD and emergency services in connection with the death of a 22-year-old woman, an official said on Tuesday.

Amethi Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Anshuman Singh said that on the basis of a report of the probe committee, the department suspended the licence on Monday. The hospital was given time arrange for treatment of the patients admitted there and their discharge.

Awadhesh Sharma, the hospital's CEO, said, "With the licence of the hospital being suspended all services provided by the hospital including emergency and OPD have come to a halt."

Sharma alleged the hospital didn't get a fair hearing and called the suspension its

licence an act of political vengeance. "This is a one-sided action on the part of the administration, and we will move the court against this."

Health department officials said that a three-member team led by additional CMO Dr Ram Prasad in its report said there was laxity in the treatment given to the deceased patient, Divya, and if specialist doctors had reached the hospital, she could have been saved.

"Taking immediate cognisance of the case of death of a female patient due to doctor's negligence in Sanjay Gandhi Hospital, Munshiganj, Amethi, as per the orders given by me, Chief Medical Officer of Amethi immediately conducted a preliminary inquiry into the matter through a three-member committee," UP Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak, who also holds the health portfolio, had on Sunday said

in a post on X in Hindi.

"On the basis of shortcomings found in the preliminary investigation, orders have been given to issue a notice to the hospital administration for seeking a clarification under the Clinical Act," Pathak said. He had warned the hospital of licence revocation and sealing of its premises if it is found involved in recklessness.

On Sunday, a case of causing death by negligence was registered against four employees of Sanjay Gandhi Hospital, including its chief executive officer, over the death of a woman.

Divya was taken to Sanjay Gandhi Hospital on September 14 morning by her family after she complained of a stomach ache.

After examining her, the doctor suggested an operation to remove stones in her gallbladder, her family said.

Men booked for entering neighbour's house in drunken state

Lucknow (PNS): A distress call to the police control room regarding two men and three Thai women at a flat in Alaknanda Apartment in the Sushant Golf City kept them on their toes throughout the day.

The flat owner claimed that when he entered Pradeep's flat with security staff, he observed three Thai women in a objectionable state along with some men.

DCP South Vinit Jaiswal said that the Thai women were living with proper visas and their passports were in order.

"A man, identified as

Pradeep, along with his friend who serves in the army, mistakenly entered the wrong flat and fell asleep there. Their presence sacred the flat owner, who promptly informed the police about the incident. A case has been registered against Pradeep and his friend based on the complaint filed by the flat owner.

DUPED

Unidentified miscreants duped a man of over Rs 48 lakh in an online fraud in Gomti Nagar on Monday. The police are investigating the case. According

to reports, the victim, identified as Gulab Singh Chauhan from Badi Jugauli, stated that miscreants used Rs 48,626 from his credit card while he was making a payment of Rs 299 for purchasing dry fruits online.

ACCUSED

A retired Deputy Superintendent of Police accused his business partner of duping him of Rs 60 lakh, alleging the misuse of his funds totaling Rs 1.36 crore in the Thakurganj police station area on Tuesday. Reports said the complainant,

Charan Singh of Telibagh in PGI police station area, gave the money to his business partner, Sayed Sujat Hasan of Thakurganj for trading some time back.

Charan alleged that Sujat did not choose transparency in his trading and registered his mobile phone with both the bank and the trading companies. He further alleged that Sujat sent fake bank statements to the him and embezzling Rs 60 lakh. The victim claims Sujat promised to repay the money but failed to do so. The police initiated an investigation after registering a case.

College professor murdered in Shahjahanpur

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a sensational incident late on Monday night in Shahjahanpur, armed assailants struck the house of a professor in the Meeranpur Katra area and brutally murdered him.

The assailants also critically injured nine family members before fleeing the scene. The injured were admitted to the hospital.

Local traders and residents staged a demonstration against the killing and closed all the markets on Tuesday and demanded arrest of the accused.

Police officials claimed to have identified all the accused through one of the assailants who was apprehended by the public.

According to reports, the victim, Alok Kumar Gupta, was a college professor in Bareilly and also owned a ready-made garment shop in Shahjahanpur's main market.

On Tuesday night, four miscreants entered his house. Upon hearing the noise, Alok woke up and confronted them and other family members also came out from their rooms.

When surrounded by the family members, the miscreants attacked Alok Gupta mul-

tiple times with a knife, as well as those family members who attempted to rescue the professor, before fleeing the scene.

Alok was rushed to hospital in Bareilly where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

The initial police investigation suggests it may be a case of robbery and murder, but they are also trying to confirm if the criminals had any other motive for the attack.

Meanwhile a class 7 student Danver (14), resident of Madaiya village of Kail in Gunnaur area of Sambhal, committed suicide by hanging himself in the animal shed of his home after being beaten in school.



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CM: Nutrition campaign foundation of healthy India

...LAYS FOUNDATION
STONE OF 1,359
ANGANWADI
CENTRES

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday said that the nutrition campaign is the foundation of a healthy and capable India. He said that there was a time when the liquor mafia used to supply 'nutritious food' in Uttar Pradesh, adding, "Our government has created a new mechanism through which women self-help groups are now delivering nutritious food to Anganwadi centres."

Addressing the National Nutrition Month programme at Lok Bhawan on Monday, he said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inspired the entire country to fight malnutrition by initiating a widespread campaign and lot of work has been done in Uttar Pradesh over the past six years in this direction."

The chief minister further said that there was a time when the state used to witness around 1,200-1,500 deaths annually due to encephalitis. Eastern Uttar Pradesh was particularly affected by this disease. In the last 30 years from 1977 to 2017, approximately 50,000 children in the state fell prey to this deadly disease.

Emphasising upon the significant improvements in the National Family Health Survey, the chief minister said that

there had been a 5.1 per cent improvement in anemia, a 6.6 per cent improvement in dwarfism, a 7.4 per cent improvement in underweight and a 0.6 per cent improvement in dryness between 2015-2016 and 2019-2020.

"After our government came to power, we started our efforts to eradicate encephalitis from the state through inter-departmental coordination with the Central government in 2018 and today we have been largely successful in our attempt," the chief minister said.

He also shed light on the decrease in maternal and child mortality rates in Uttar Pradesh.

"This became possible because mothers and children started receiving nutritious food. Our government will organise competitions for healthy boys and girls at the Anganwadi centres, Nyay Panchayats and block offices", he added.

The chief minister said that as this year marks the first year of the Azaadi ka Amrit Kal, the government aimed at establishing India as the world's third-largest economy by 2027. "Prime Minister Modi has set a goal for 2047, the centenary year of India's independence, to make the country developed. For this, we need to make our country healthy, educated, and capable", he added.

During the baby shower ceremony, the chief minister gifted medicines and nutritious food items to some pregnant women. He also per-



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath performing Annaprashan Sanskar of a child in Lok Bhawan on Tuesday

Pioneer

formed Annaprashan Sanskar of infants by feeding pudding to them.

Additionally, the chief minister, honoured the parents of three children who rose up to well-nourished category from

malnourished category of families, under the 'Sambhav' campaign.

He also gifted two uniform sarees to four Anganwadi workers as a token of appreciation.

Additionally, the chief minister transferred Rs 29 crore through DBT for uniforms to 2.90 lakh Anganwadi workers and helpers.

During the programme, Yogi also inaugurated and laid

foundation stone of 1,359 Anganwadi centres at a cost of Rs 155 crore.

Besides, the foundation stone of 171 child development project offices was laid at a cost of Rs 50 crore.

Nari Shakti Vandan Act a revolutionary step: CM

...EXTENDS GANESH
CHATURTHI GREETINGS

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The first day in India's new Parliament building was dedicated to the mother power of the country. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has called 'Nari Shakti Vandan Act' as a revolutionary step.

The Chief Minister wrote on his X account that India's great democracy has become proud in the true sense. "The 'Nari Shakti Vandan Act' presented in the Lok Sabha by respected Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is an epoch-making step towards women empowerment. Hearty congratulations to the entire mother power!", Yogi stated.

This historic decision to give their due rights to half the country's population and make Indian democracy stronger and participatory, will play a big role in building a 'developed India'. Hearty thanks Prime Minister!, he further added.

On the auspicious occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi, the chief minister also congratulated the citizens of the country as they witnessed history in the making on Tuesday with the commencement of proceedings in the new Parliament building.

On the second day of the special session of Parliament, the proceedings of Parliament were initiated in the newly-constructed Parliament building.

On this occasion, the chief minister wrote on his official social media account, "The new Parliament building representing the constitutional rights of 140 crore Indians will become an eternal symbol of our strong and golden future along with the establishment of human values. I have full confidence that this Parliament building will further accelerate the continuous journey of 'Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat', under the successful leadership of respected Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Congratulations to the people of the country!"

Others present in the programme were Minister of Women's Welfare, Child Development and Nutrition Baby Rani Maurya, State Minister of Child Development and Nutrition Pratibha Shukla,

Chief Secretary Durga Shankar Mishra, Agriculture Production Commissioner Manoj Kumar Singh and Principal Secretary of the Women and Child Development Veena Kumari.

BSP will support Women Reservation Bill: Maya

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Bahujan Samaj Party supremo Mayawati on Tuesday said her party would support any Bill that allows reservation for women in Parliament and other legislatures, even if the party's demand for a quota for the SC, ST and OBC within that quota was not met.

Her remarks came on a day when the Centre said it was introducing a Bill in Parliament to provide one-third reservation to women in the Lok Sabha, state assemblies and the Delhi legislative assembly.

Mayawati said her party wanted women from the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Classes to get a separate quota in the draft legislation. But she made it clear that the BSP would support the Bill even if this demands was not met.

The Dalit leader said her party would welcome a Bill even if it provides 50 per cent reservation for women and the government should consider this.

She said the SC-ST quota for women in the Bill should be separate from the existing reservation for these categories in legislatures.

"The architect of the Constitution Dr BR Ambedkar had given reservation to people for these sections as they were socially, economically and educationally backward for centuries, and they are still backward. The reservation in

government jobs and in politics is to give them respectful lives and to get rid of their backwardness. In such a situation, our party wants the women from these categories to get reservation in the Bill being brought today. If this is not done and if this Bill is passed in its current form, then the BSP will understand that the BJP and Congress party and company's casteist thinking hasn't changed and these parties want these communities to continue being backward," Mayawati said.

The BSP chief said that her party welcomed the start of the new Parliament.

"In this new Parliament building, the Centre has presented the Women's Reservation Bill. In support of the Bill, BSP and most other parties will vote. In such a situation, it is our party's hope that this Women's Reservation Bill passes after discussion. This Bill has been left pending for a long time," she said.

The Women's Reservation Bill, stuck for 27 years, was said to have been cleared by the Narendra Modi government reserving 33 per cent seats for women in Parliament and legislative Assemblies.

Mayawati also said that no politics should be done over the criteria for reservation under the Bill.

"It should be transparent and the Bill should be implemented in a timely manner. This is the BSP's suggestion," she said.

Women Reservation Bill must be balanced with Dalit, backward stakes: Akhilesh

Lucknow (PTI): Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday said reservation for women should be a balance of gender justice and social justice and demanded a clarity on share of backward, Dalit, minority, and tribals in the seats set aside.

In a post on X in Hindi, Akhilesh Yadav said, "Women's reservation should be a balance of gender justice and social justice. In this, reservation for backward, Dalit, minority, tribal women should be clear in definite percentage form."

The SP chief's X post came after the Centre on Tuesday introduced a constitutional amendment bill - Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam - to reserve one-third of seats in Lok Sabha and state assemblies for women, reviving a bill pending for 27 years for want of consensus among parties.

Making it the first bill to be introduced in the new Parliament building, the government said it will enable greater participation of women in policy-making at the state and national level and help achieve the goal of making India a developed country by 2047.

Earlier in the day, SP's chief spokesperson Rajendra Chaudhary demanded the



share of Dalit and other oppressed to be provisioned in the reservation.

"As far as this bill is concerned, our stand is how much reservation will the backward get under the bill. We had opposed the bill when it was presented by the Congress-led UPA government, and today, when the BJP is bringing it, we are still not in complete agreement," he told PTI.

"We want justice for women and also want reservation for them. But what would be the quantum of reservation to backwards, tribals, Dalits?" Chaudhary asked. He said a final decision on whether to support the Bill will be taken in Delhi, since senior party leaders Ramgopal Yadav and Dimple Yadav are there.

Mulayam Singh Yadav, the then Samajwadi Party president, had in 2009 opposed the

proposal of the Women's Reservation Bill, calling it a "conspiracy" against the politicians who had reached the Lok Sabha through "hard struggle" and warned of a people's movement if the UPA pushes the legislation.

Yadav, whose party was supporting the government then from outside, had backed JD(U) leader Sharad Yadav's contention, who said if the Bill is passed without a consensus, it would tantamount to administering of "poison by force" by the ruling class to those against the Bill as had been done to Greek philosopher Socrates who was forced to drink hemlock on trumped up charges.

Union Minister of State Prahlad Singh Patel had on Monday posted on X that the Cabinet has approved the women's reservation bill, but deleted the post within an hour.

"Only the Modi government had the moral courage to fulfil the demand for women's reservation which was proved by the approval of the cabinet. Congratulations Narendra Modi ji and congratulations to the Modi government," the minister said in the now deleted post on X.

Patel is the Minister of State for Food Processing Industries and Jal Shakti.

Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Trust shares Ganesha's carved image

KAMLESH SRIVASTAVA ■
AYODHYA

On the auspicious occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi, the birth day of Lord Ganesha, the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust shared a captivating image of Lord Ganesha carved within the ongoing construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

The Trust unveiled this image on its handle X, drawing reverence and admiration from devotees.

In their tweet, the Trust expressed heartfelt salutations to Lord Ganesha, whose divine form now graces the interior of the under-construction Shri Ram Janmabhoomi temple. The message extended warm wishes for infinite happiness to society on the sacred festival of Shri Ganesh Chaturthi.

The shared image depicts Lord Ganesha holding an axe, stick, teeth, and modak (laddu) in his four divine arms. Similar idols of various deities are undergoing meticulous carving at various locations within the Ram temple. Each pillar of the temple is adorned with 16



intricately crafted deities. These statues, meticulously carved from the renowned pink sandstone of Rajasthan, have been captivating the hearts of devotees.

Among the five temples planned to be constructed within the walls of the Shri Ram Temple, one will be dedicated to Lord Ganesha.

The presence of Lord Ganesha is considered auspicious for the success of any endeavor, and his family, which

includes his two wives, Riddhi and Siddhi, along with their sons, Shubha and Labh, symbolises auspiciousness and profit. In keeping with this sacred tradition, Lord Ganesha is honoured with a place in the ongoing construction of the Ram temple.

The temple boasts a total of 166 pillars on the ground floor, with eight of them made of white marble in the sanctum sanctorum.

The pillars on the first floor of the temple have already reached a height of 10 feet, with construction work on the first floor currently at 50 per cent completion. The Trust anticipates completing this phase before the inauguration of the Ram temple.

According to the Trust's timeline, the consecration ceremony is scheduled for January 2024, with the entire temple project anticipated to reach completion by December 2025. This grand endeavor aims to celebrate the rich heritage and spirituality of Ayodhya and is met with eager anticipation by devotees and admirers from all around the world.

Bijnor sugar mill to begin crushing from next season

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh will get a new sugar mill in private sector during the next cane crushing season 2023-24 commencing from October. The new mill, owned by Bindal Group, is located in the Chandpur area of Bijnor district, with a capacity to crush 1,000 TCD of sugarcane.

The private sector has not witnessed the opening of new sugar mills in the state in recent years. During the 2016-17 sugarcane crushing season, 116 sugar mills were operating in the state. At that time, during the tenure of the Samajwadi Party government, a new cooperative sector mill was initiated in Sathiyawan in Azamgarh.

Subsequently, during the

Bharatiya Janata Party government's tenure, efforts to rejuvenate and enhance the capacity of existing sugar mills in Piraich and Munderwa in Purvanchal led to the reopening of these mills. Additionally, Chhaprauli Sugar Mill in Bagpat district began operations during Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's tenure. Preparations for the upcoming sugarcane crushing season are progressing swiftly in the state. According to information, sugarcane crushing is expected to commence either by the end of October or the beginning of November this year.

Earlier, in June last Uttar Pradesh cabinet had approved a proposal for the revival of the closed sugar mill at Chata in Mathura district.

Besides approving the increase the daily sugarcane crushing capacity, the cabinet decided to develop the defunct asset of public sector as logistic hub and warehousing complex. The complex will also have a distillery with installed capacity of 60 kilo liters per day (KLPD) and the cane crushing capacity of the sugar mill will be 3,000 tons per day expandable to 4,900 TCD. The estimated cost of the project is Rs 462 crore.

The sugarcane development minister Chowdhary Lakshmi Narayan said that the revival of the sugar mill along setting up of new distillery and logistic hub would spur the comprehensive development of the rural areas of Mathura district as it would generate many

direct and indirect jobs. He said the National Cooperative Sugar Factories Federation Limited had prepared detailed project report for the Chata sugar mill and distillery project.

He said the sugar mill and the distillery would be based on the latest state of the art technology where high-pressure boiling technology, efficient milling plant and cogeneration of electricity from the bagasse -the byproduct after cane crushing. He said the requirement of the staff for the project would be met from redeployment of the existing staff of the sugarcane department and contractual employees while the other staff would be outsourced.

"The Chata sugar mill was set up by the Sugar Corporation in 1978 with installed capacity

of 1,250 TCD. The capacity of the Chata sugar mill was expanded to 2,500 TCD in 1994. The Mayawati government in 2009 decided to close the sugar mill due to non-availability of the sugar cane and mounting losses and the employees were given voluntary retirement and plant and machinery was shifted to other mills of the corporation still in operation.

The Chata sugar mill is located on Agra-Delhi highway and 500 metres from the Chata railway station. The total land area of the Chata sugar mill is 43.32 hectares and new sugar, distillery and logistic hub would benefit close to 10 lakh farmers besides providing direct and indirect employment to thousands of youths.

BJP leader found dead under mysterious circumstances

Lucknow (PNS): A Bharatiya Janata Party leader, also running a college in Basti, died under mysterious circumstances on Tuesday. He was found in a pool of blood with bullet injury on his head.

A Bharatiya Janata Party leader, who also ran a college in Basti, died under mysterious circumstances on

Tuesday. He was found in a pool of blood with a bullet injury on his head.

The family members claimed it to be a case of suicide, citing that the deceased was under depression due to his inability to repay a loan. However, the police suspected foul play because the family members attempted to bury the body without informing them.

The body has been sent for post-mortem and the report is awaited for further investigation, police said.

Reports said that Mohammad Akram was found lying in a pool of blood with his licensed revolver by his side. The family members did not inform the police and started the burial process, but the police reached the

spot on the information of neighbors.

The police called the forensic team, which collected samples and the body was sent for post-mortem.

Police have also found a suicide note, which will be matched with Akram's handwriting to confirm whether it was written by him before his death or not.

Woman found hanging under mysterious circumstances

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

A woman was found hanging under mysterious circumstances in Babukheda village in the Achalganj police station area of Unnao. The brother suspected that his sister was killed and the body was hanged due to greed for property. At the time of the incident, her husband had gone to take care of the field. On the calendar hanging in the courtyard words written with lipstick indicated that the woman committed suicide being upset due to the prolonged illness. But the brother held that his sister was not very literate and said the words written on the calendar were not in her handwriting. A probe was on in the matter while the autopsy report confirmed that she died due to hanging. The deceased was identified as Sunita (33), wife

of Vinay Lodhi of Babukheda, Banther, Unnao. She was married to Vinay in 2010 and had four children. On Monday morning when Vinay returned home, he found Sunita hanging and children sleeping in the room. He informed her parents and the police. In the alleged suicide note written on the calendar with lipstick she admitted to committing suicide being upset due to abdomen pain. She also wrote that her in-laws should not be harassed for the incident. In his complaint lodged with the police, brother Raju of Kurmapur village in the same police area said Sunita had arrived at her in-laws' place about a week ago. She had informed about being humiliated by in-laws following a property dispute. Raju said as his sister was not literate, the suicide note written with the lipstick on the calendar was not

in her writing. The police have also recovered the broken bangles from the spot. During investigation it was observed that as Sunita's cousin father-in-law Ram Sajivan had no issue, he had adopted her husband Vinay. Apart from transferring two bighas of land in Vinay's name, Ram Sajivan had also bought a Bolero for him. As Vinay kept his uncle Ram Sajivan with him this angered his brother and father. SSI Brijesh Kumar said investigation was on in the matter.

Meanwhile the blood-stained body of a youth was recovered near Parjani on Delhi-Howrah rail route under Mangalpur police area of Kanpur Dehat on Tuesday morning. He was identified as Shivraj (27) of Raipur, Rura (Kanpur Dehat). The police rushed to the spot and after identifying the body, sent it for

autopsy. Shivraj was a machine operator. On Monday he had gone to Pilakh village with the machine. After leaving the machine there, he had arrived at Parjani for some work. While crossing the down line, he was caught under the wheels of some train and killed on the spot. On Tuesday morning his body was recovered near Parjani Halt on the down line. Trackman informed the station master, Jhinhak, about it. On the basis of memo sent from there, sub-inspector of Mangalpur police station Iqbal rushed to the spot and sent the body for autopsy. Mangalpur inspector said during prima facie investigation it was observed that the youth was killed after coming under the wheels of some train. On receipt of the autopsy report, further action will be initiated in the matter, he said.

12 cr devotees visit KVC in 22 months

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

After the inauguration of Kashi Vishwanath Corridor (KVC), the number of devotees visiting there is making new records every day as around 12 lakh devotees visited the corridor during the last 22 months. More than 11.72 crore devotees had offered prayers there by September 11 last and during this period, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath himself visited there more than a hundred times including on Monday night to see all the arrangements to provide facilities to the devotees. In bringing the Prime Minister's dream project on the ground, the state government had taken care of every small and big need of the devotees in the

expanded corridor premises so that the devotees do not face any inconvenience. This is the reason due to which there is a huge crowd of faith in Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham. After the inauguration on December 13 in 2021, every month at least more than 31 lakh and maximum more than 95 lakh Shiva devotees are paying obshiva in the court of Lord Mahadev. Not only this, lakhs of devotees are coming to the corridor every day. Sunil Kumar Verma, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham said that the best arrangements are being made to ensure that the devotees do not face any problem in summer, cold and rain. German hangers have been installed to protect the devotees from the

scorching sun, mats to prevent foot from getting burnt, water coolers for drinking water, free wheelchairs for disabled people, medical arrangements for all, etc have made it easier for Shiva devotees to reach the temple. After the inauguration in December 2021, 74,59,471 devotees visited the temple in the month of January 2022, approximately 76,81,561 in the month of Shravan in 2022 and 95,62, 206 during Shravan this year. With time, facilities are also being added to the corridor. Shopping facilities are also available for the devotees. Brass idols, artefacts, worship material, prasad, pictures of temples and Banarasi silk sarees and clothes and other items are available at the shops here. There are also food courts and restaur-

rants in the complex where pure vegetarian food without onion and garlic is available at reasonable rates apart from vrat thali. There is also a provision of free food in the food sector. There is a hotel for stay in the complex itself and tour packages for Kashi Darshan are available. Free Mumakshu Bhawan has also been arranged for the old people looking for salvation. Besides, more than 23,000 devotees participated in the Mangala Aarti held in the morning at Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham. A total of more than 38,000 devotees took part in the four daily aartis during the month of Shravan and during this auspicious month, more than 1.62 crore devotees visited the Kashi Vishwanath Temple (KVT) to offer special prayers.

Ganga puja for new Parliament House

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

On the occasion of the inauguration of the new Parliament House complex in New Delhi, the workers of BJP (Backward Class Morcha) led by its Kashi Region Vice President Anup Jaiswal, offered Dugdhabhishek in holy river Ganga at Sheetla Ghat here on Tuesday.

By worshipping Maa Ganga, they prayed to the Almighty for a bright future for the country



Milk being offered in river Ganga in Varanasi on Tuesday to welcome new Parliament building.

and the new Parliament building.

The programme was conducted by Dharendra Sharma while the vote of thanks was given by Kuldeep Verma. The chief guest of the programme was Om Prakash Yadav. Among those who were present were Mithai Lal Yadav, Shankar Jaiswal, Siddhanath Gond Algu, Aditya Goenka, Dharam Chand, Prakash, Manish Chaurasia, Sanjay Khanna, Manglesh Jaiswal etc.

Seminar on Indian languages

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Under the Rajbhasha Fortnight 2023, a seminar on Indian languages was organised in the Hall of Fame in Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) here on Tuesday. The BLW officers and employees spoke in different Indian languages included in the Eighth Schedule and participated enthusiastically in the seminar. While presiding over the programme, Ranvijay, Principal Chief Personnel Officer (PCPO) described the efforts of speakers as incomparable and exemplary to bring together the Indian languages and remember their writers as well as present the seriousness and greatness quoted in the works of those languages.

While welcoming the participants, Senior Rajbhasha Officer Dr Sanjay Kumar Singh, while presenting the introduction of the seminar, said that along with the Rajbhasha Hindi, all the Indian languages are complementary to each other and have regional needs. The seminar started with the Sanskrit verses of Shishupal Vadham written by great poet Magh by Shri Arvind Kumar Tiwari. Karuna Singh presented Shringaar Ras Ke Mora Re Anganwa Chandan Kere Gachhiya... of Vidyapati of Maithili language. Anjan Kumar Parija presented the poem Kalijayi Re Sandhya... composed by Pandit Godavarish Mishra in Oriya language. Yasmin Fatima presented Nazir Akbarabadi's Darul Makafat in Urdu. Ravindra Nath Soren presented the Sarhul song of Balara Tudu in Santali language. M Bhavana presented Thiruppugal, a composition prepared in Tamil. Prashant Chakraborty presented Rabindra Nath Tagore's famous work Chitra in Bengali language. Rupinder Kaur presented lines of Punjabi poet Prof Mohan Singh's composition Rubai. Piyush Minj, Assistant Personnel Officer presented a composition in Kurukh language and finally Dr Shashi Kant Sharma presented the Shakti Puja of Ram by Hindi poet Surya Kant Tripathi Nirala. The programme and seminar was beautifully conducted by senior translator Amlesh Srivastava while the vote of thanks was given by senior translator Vinod Kumar Srivastava. On this occasion, many literature lovers of BLW, including PRO Rajesh Kumar, were also present.

BHU teacher gets award

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The felicitation ceremony of prestigious Indo Asia Leadership Awards was held at Jaipur recently. The award recognises individuals who have an impactful, creative and influential commitment to excellence and leadership. The award under the Art and Culture category was conferred to Dr Rajeev Kumar Dubey from the Banaras Hindu University (BHU). Dr Dubey has authored several poetry books and articles that are connected with Indian values and ethos. His books display



Dr R.K. Dubey of BHU receiving an award at Jaipur recently.

an extraordinary and rare blend of spiritual elevation, global accord, universal brotherhood, world peace, love for nature, singular dedication to the nation, the revival of Indian culture, and women empowerment. Dr Dubey is currently working as a Professor of Anesthesiology at the Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS), BHU. His academic background comprises the disciplines of Anesthesiology, Critical care, and Hospital Administration. Apart from being a popular teacher and eminent physician, he is also a candid author and a sensitive poet.

Seminar on decoding AI inaugurated

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Mahila Mahavidyalaya (MMV) in Banaras Hindu University (BHU) has initiated a two-day International Seminar on '(De)Coding AI in the Humanities: Prospects and Challenges in Indian, German, and World Literatures and Cultures'. The seminar was inaugurated on Tuesday by Prof NV Chalaphathi Rao from the Geology department and the coordinator of the BHU International. The seminar is being organised in collaboration with the University of Cologne, Germany, and the DWHI, New Delhi. As Amisha Jain, the head of the International Office at Cologne University, stated, this seminar brings German and Indian scholars together to discuss a subject of such importance and will pave the way for scholars to develop their work in the future. Speaking in the inaugural function, Prof Chalaphathi Rao discussed the urgency of addressing the issue of artificial intelligence (AI), which is the need of the hour. Further, he explained how

India is playing a significant role in the fields of politics, culture, and technology, and seminars such as these from the School of Humanities will only strengthen the position of the country. The seminar delegates were welcomed by Prof Rita Singh, the Principal of MMV. She stressed the significance of how technology continues to evolve, incorporating itself into our lives in ways we are often unaware of. Whether it is a simple act of browsing Netflix or performing miraculous medical procedures, artificial intelligence is assisting us in unprecedented methods. There is a need for the Humanities to step up and decipher the coded messages behind this technology because, if left unchecked, it has the potential to cause serious harm in ways that are beyond comprehension. Prof Abhay Mishra, Head of the German department, and Prof Anita Singh, Head of the English department, also weighed in on the issue. A number of examples from the cinematic texts were presented by Prof Anita Singh in which AI is portraying a certain utopian and dystopian vision of

the future. The keynote speaker from Germany, Dr Roger Fornoff, Head of German Studies department, Cologne University, highlighted how the world is facing a troubling issue of coping with this evolving technology and stressed the need to create a space for discussion on this topic at length before it is too late. Amar Singh, Department of English, MMV, presented the seminar concept, explaining how in the tech industry, jobs are being lost due to AI replacing the workforce of thousands, saving these companies substantially in terms of costs. According to him, it will not be long before this technology replaces even academicians, scholars, and teachers in universities and schools. Finally, he stated that he wishes to convey that we are entering a time in which our future will be determined by decisions curated using artificial intelligence. The vote of thanks was given by Shipra Tholia, Assistant Professor of German Studies at BHU. The seminar was conducted by Dr Amar Singh, Shipra Tholia, and Dr Pravin K Patel.

KDA squad bulldozes godown

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The enforcement squad of Kanpur Development Authority (KDA) bulldozed a private godown constructed on its 4,000 sq mtr land worth ₹10 crore in Boodhpur Machharia on Monday. The encroachers kept protesting with threats of complaining to the chief minister. When the drive remained suspended for one-and-a-half-hours, a team of senior officers rushed to the spot on the directives of the district magistrate which ordered to demolish the illegal construction.

The entire land was vacated from illegal possession. On arazi Nos. 375, 376 and 377, KDA owns its land in Boodhpur Machharia. Apart from carrying out the construction of a godown on this land, a restaurant was also running on the spot. SDM Archana Agnihotri, deputed in KDA, had sent notices to encroachers Veenus Gupta and Aditya Gupta who failed to show any valid proof for their securing possession on this land. Accordingly, Monday was fixed to demolish the illegal construction. When the SDM Archana Agnihotri and



The KDA squad bulldozed illegal construction on its land in Boodhpur Machharia on Monday

Executive Engineer RK Pandey reached the spot, encroachers started protesting the move. When the issue came to notice of DM Vishakh G Iyer, he deputed Additional Secretary Dr Gudakesh Sharma and OSD Sat Shukla to the site who ordered to demolish the illegal construction. At the same time the KDA team also identified its land in the nearby area which was also in unauthorised possession. The DM directed to get that land vacated also within next 15 days. He also directed to sell the vacated land through e-auction.

REVIEW MEETING: District Magistrate Visakh G Iyer while holding a review meeting at the Collectorate for the IGRS portal along with the officials directed them to ensure that all issues put up on the portal were settled qualitatively and that too within the fixed timeframe. He warned the Kanpur Development Authority (KDA), basic shiksha adhikari, chief engineer, Kesco and tehsildar Ghatampur, placed them in the defaulter list and issued a stern warning to the officials directing them to ensure it was settled on top priority within a week. He was holding a review meeting of the progress of this month on the basis of the feedback and said most unsatisfactory performance had been of Kesco, district social welfare officer, executive engineer, PWD, Kanpur Nagar Nigam, Labour department, SDM Ghatampur, block development officer, Bilhaur, and executive engineer, Jalkal and directed that while settling all issues they need to properly maintain a record in a proper format where the name of the complainant, witnesses and the name of the official who settled the complaint with his or her designation be clearly mentioned.

The district magistrate cautioned all nodal officials that in any complaint without discussion and physical verification of the spot it should not be uploaded and ensure that it was settled then and there in the presence of the aggrieved parties. He directed the department of finance that there needs to be a full mention of the name of lekhpal and place and should have an official stamp. He also directed the Kesco officials that all the issues need to be settled qualitatively.

Migraine most underdiagnosed health problem

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Around 200 million people in India have migraine, which made it the third most common disease and in India migraine was still the most underdiagnosed health problem. Among the age group of 15-49 migraine was the number one cause of years lost due to disability and there was still a lack of awareness around this condition. Studies have shown that it was more visible in women than in men, where six per cent of the male population and 18 per cent of the female population suffered from the disorder. This was stated by noted neurologist, Dr Gurbeer Singh Sehgal, while informing presspersons about the five day migraine camp to be held from Wednesday at Sehgal Neurological Centre. He said migraine was often treated as a normal headache and ironically most of the doctors were often confused with sinus, cervical headache, hunger headache and even a hangover. He said the commonest reason for migraine was stress and high stress levels lead to frequent and severe headaches. He said as people keep

treating migraine as normal headaches and succumb to over-the-counter pain killers for short-term solutions, it had a massive effect in the long run and may also lead to recurrent headaches. He said environmental factors such as pollution can also increase the intensity of migraine in patients as they get triggered due to dust and smoke. Dr Sehgal said scientists have yet not found a cure for migraines, but they're better at treating the symptoms. He said the recent advances included new drugs and new delivery systems (nasal sprays, needle injections) that may work better and with fewer side effects than older migraine medications.

He said the latest research had made doctors even more aware of the importance of lifestyle changes in the treatment of migraine. He said a regular schedule that allowed one to get enough rest was essential. He said in addition to this certain foods trigger migraines and a healthy, balanced diet eaten at regular meal times can help keep migraines at bay. He said exercise and staying active, especially if it was outside, can

help regulate sleep and eating rhythms. He suggested relaxation techniques like yoga, meditation and biofeedback also seemed to have a positive effect for some people. He said there was some evidence that hormones like estrogen can play a role in migraines in women. He said some women notice it when estrogen dipped right before their menstrual cycle started. He said above all the best was to bring in change in one's lifestyle and try to reduce stress as much as possible.

KISAN DIWAS: Deputy Director, Agriculture, Arun Kumar informed on Tuesday that as per the UP Government order it had been decided in principle to hold Kisan Diwas on every Wednesday at Vikas Bhawan. He said all officials related to various departments of agriculture need to be present in the meeting along with lead bank managers and officials of insurance companies. He said the objective was to apprise the farmers about facilities being provided by the government so that they avail themselves of the facilities. He said farmer community comprised mainly of small and marginal farmers who major-

ly faced all the challenges in agriculture. He said it was true that farmers faced a lot of problems in agriculture right from nature's activities to man-made activities, including climate change, soil erosion, biodiversity loss, water resource depletion, lack of capital, labour and other inputs etc. Major cause of these problems is mainly due to lack of proper awareness, less adoption of modern technologies, lack of capital or gap between farmers and government institutions. These problems cannot be fully solved but can be mitigated to some extent by following wise agricultural practices, sustainable use of resources and bridging the gap between rural farmers, government and financial institutions. He said major problems faced by the Indian farmers were small and fragmented land holdings, lack of marketing and storage facilities, poor adoption of mechanisation, credit availability, poor irrigation facilities, soil fertility depletion and inadequate access to crop insurance schemes. He appealed to farmers to take part in the Kisan Diwas and avail themselves of the benefits.

Welfare measures for LIC agents, employees approved

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The official statement of the Life Insurance Corporation of India released stated that as per the Ministry of Finance it had approved welfare measures for LIC agents and its employees. The ministry had approved a series of welfare measures which included increase of gratuity and now the maximum amount payable to agents had been increased to ₹5 lakh. In addition to this it had also set up eligibility for renewal commissions and as per the new provisions the reappointed LIC agents were eligible to receive renewal commission. It stated that there has

also been an increase in the enhanced term insurance cover and the quantum of free term insurance payable to agents had been increased to ₹1.50 lakh.

Another benefit was the family pension and family pension at a uniform rate of @30 per cent for welfare of families of LIC employees has been introduced. Siddhartha Mohanty, Chairperson, LIC of India thanked the finance minister for extending the benefits of agents and employees of Life Insurance Corporation of India. This move will certainly boost the morale of LIC employees and agents of the corporation resulting in its faster financial growth.

Hindi quiz contest held



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Hindi quiz competition was organised for railway employees in Bharatendu meeting hall (DRM) Office here on Tuesday under the auspices of the Rajbhasha department of North Eastern Railway, Varanasi Division on the direction of Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Vineet Kumar Srivastava and Senior Data and Resource Manager and Rajbhasha Officer Navneet Kumar Verma.

A total of 50 employees working in different departments and different stations of

Varanasi Division participated enthusiastically in this competition. The competition was conducted by Navneet Kumar Verma. On the occasion, there was the notable presence of junior translator Ajay Kumar Singh, junior translator Poonam Tripathi and Mamta Yadav. Under the Rajbhasha Language Week, the next competition will be a Hindi elocution competition which will be organised on Wednesday from 4 pm in Bharatendu Conference Hall on 'Social and Economic Impact of G-20 on India' or 'Indian Railways in the Promotion of Hindi'.

Volleyball: IITK-A emerge winners

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur's staff team, IIT Kanpur-A (IITK-A), emerged winners in the 2023 Kanpur Office League Volleyball Tournament organised by the Staff Gymkhana at IIT Kanpur. The team secured victory by defeating the DMSRDE (Defence Materials and Stores Research and Development Establishment) team in two straight sets.

A total of eight teams from Kanpur participated in the tournament, including IIT Kanpur-A, IIT Kanpur-B, IIT Kanpur-C, Field Gun Factory, OFC (Ordnance Factory Kanpur), DGQA (The Directorate General of Quality Assurance), HAL (Hindustan



Aeronautics Ltd) and DMSRDE (Defence Materials and Stores Research & Development Establishment).

The tournament was inaugurated by Prof Kantesh Balani from the Department of Materials Science and

Engineering and Prof Indra Sekhar Sen from the Department of Earth Science. The winning and runner-up teams received awards from Prof Aditya H Kelkar from the Department of Physics and Sarvendra Sachan, Secretary of the Kanpur District Volleyball Association. Alok Yadav was honoured with the award for the best player in the tournament. District Volleyball Association officials, Anil Sachan, Vijay Patel, and Suresh Yadav, were present during the event. The vote of thanks was proposed by Amit Dohre, organising secretary and coach of IIT Kanpur and Prof Chinmoy Kolay from the Department of Civil Engineering who is also the Captain of IITK-A.

ECI officers ask 12 DEOs to complete poll preparations

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

In view of the upcoming Lok Sabha general elections, Senior Deputy Election Commissioners of Election Commission of India (ECI) Dharmendra Sharma and Nitesh Vyas asked the district election officers/ district magistrates (DEOs/DMs) of 12 districts of this region including Varanasi to complete poll preparations on time. Holding a meeting with the DEOs/DMs of Varanasi, Sonbhadra, Mirzapur, Chandauli, Ghazipur, Jaunpur, Azamgarh, Mau, Ballia, Prayagraj, Amethi and Bhadohi at a meeting held here on Monday, they also reviewed the progress of preparations.

They also discussed the preparation of the voter list in the context of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, 2024. To make the voter list proper, instructions were given to all the 12 DEOs regarding registering the names of eligible voters in the voter list, removing the names of dead voters from the voter list and improving elector population (EP) and gender



ECI officers holding a meeting with 12 DEOs/DMs on poll preparations in Varanasi on Monday.

ratio.

In the meeting, SDECs instructed the DEOs/ DMs that efforts should be made that the name of any eligible voter is not deprived of being registered in the voter list and directed them to take efforts to register the names of young voters of 18-19 age group in the voter list. For this, they said that special camps should be organ-

ised in educational institutions like universities, technical and medical colleges, ITIs, Polytechnics etc. Besides, they also asked the DEOs/ DMs to organise regular meetings with political parties to help in purifying the voter list.

The ECI officers said that the suggestions of the political parties should also be taken and steps should also be taken

to implement their suggestions after examining them on their merits and demerits. ECI Director Deepali Masirkar, Secretary Pawan Diwan, Under Secretary Prafulla Awasthi, Chief Electoral Officer, Uttar Pradesh Navdeep Rinwa along with Additional Chief Electoral Officers Nidhi Srivastava and Kumar Vineet were also present in the meeting.

Kaushambi triple murder: Cong delegation visits village

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Four days after three members of a family, including a pregnant woman, were killed by their neighbours over property dispute in Panda chauraha in Kaushambi on Friday, a 26-member Congress delegation visited the village and demanded justice for kin.

“Cases of atrocities on Dalits are on the rise in Yogi-led state government. Congress party will launch a massive agitation against the triple murder,” said Congress national secretary Pradeep Narwal. The Congress leaders including, Alok Prasad, Suresh Yadav, Mukund Tiwari, Vivekanand Pathak, Haseeb Ahmed and others, said they were with the grief-stricken family.

Three persons of a family, including a pregnant woman, her husband and father, were shot dead allegedly by their neighbours over property dispute near Panda chauraha under Sandipan Ghat police station of Kaushambi on Friday. Irked over the killings, agitated mob of villagers had gone on a rampage for around two hours and torched about half a dozen huts and make-shift shops and two vehicles.

The delegation of Congress

leaders also will investigate the cause of the triple murder. The Congress aims to highlight the ‘poor law and order’ situation in the state under BJP’s rule. The delegation will present a detailed report to the party high command.

ARRESTED: The arrest of four Bihar-based criminals, who were held from city for committing crimes in UP, West Bengal and Assam has revealed that the gang didn’t use mobile phones fearing being trapped and preferred bikes to move from one place to other, police said.

They also made advance booking of tickets (for one member) in premium trains like Rajdhani if the amount of looted cash was more than expected.

The four members — Neeraj Kumar Banjara, Shankar Kumar Yadav, Kishan Yadav and Kashi Banjara — were arrested by Prayagraj police on Sunday. The police also seized Rs 8.35 lakh cash, three 0.315 bore licensed pistols along with six live cartridges, two bikes, eight SIM cards, four packets each of itching and chilly power and other valuables from their possession. The gang had executed Rs 7 lakh loot in Prayagraj and Rs 9 lakh loot in

Sitapur on September 12 and 15 and had stayed in Varanasi and Lucknow respectively, they said. The gang, police said, had taken a cue from a similar gang in Odisha.

“The gang members used to travel on their bikes to different cities to execute crime. They didn’t prefer mobile phones and once they reached a particular city to execute crime, then they purchased basic mobiles and SIM cards on forged documents,” DCP (City) Deepak Bhuker told reporters.

Before executing loot in Prayagraj on September 12, the gang members had travelled to Varanasi from Katihar (Bihar), and took shelter in a hotel on fake identities.

“Once they arrived in Prayagraj, they purchased three keypad mobile sets and SIMs and destroyed it after executing the loot. The robbers then escaped to Lucknow and deposited the looted amount in the accounts of their wives. Cops, however, managed to freeze the accounts,” the DCP said.

Bhuker added that efforts were on to compile more information about Pushpendra - said to be kingpin of the gang- and other members. The DCP

said compilation of CCTV and video footages has helped the cops connect the missing links and identify the criminals.

Senior police officials said the gang had made Katihar as their base camp where they assembled after executing crimes.

“They used to conduct proper recce before committing a crime. Moreover, the gang struck only at places where they could get hefty amount. They kept on changing their location to dodge police. They moved in groups of three to five and they didn’t execute crime in cities where they stayed,” they said adding that the gang was expert in executing snatchings and robbery swiftly.

“Every member of the gang was assigned different task right from snatching loot or valuables to its transportation to safer areas. Now, police are on the lookout for other operatives of the gang. The gang preferred to travel long distances to execute crimes. The gang always remained prepared for any eventuality and had a back-up plan ready.

They changed their names and carried fake identities to dodge law enforcement agencies,” they said.

CM distributes certificates

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath watched the cultural talents of children and distributed certificates to them in the programme of Kashi Sansad Sanskritik Mahotsav (KSSM) organised in the Divisional Auditorium here on Monday evening during his one-day visit when the CM was in the city to inspect the preparations for the proposed visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to his parliamentary constituency on September 23. During his visit, the PM will also give awards to the winners of mega event of KSSM to be held at Rudraksh International Convention Centre.

During the programme, the CM was also honoured by UP Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ravindra Jaiswal by giving him an angavastaram and a memento. UP Labour and Employment Minister Anil Rajbhar, Minister of State (Independent Charge) Dayashankar Mishra ‘Dayalu’ along with Divisional Commissioner Kaushal Raj Sharma, District Magistrate S Rajalingam, Chief Development Officer



CM Yogi Adityanath distributing a certificate to a participant of KSSM in Varanasi on Monday.

Himanshu Nagpal etc were also present.

Meanwhile, the district level competitions was held at five places in the series of KSSM being organised with the aim of promoting Indian culture in genres like dance, music, singing, street drama etc. A cultural competition in solo and

group categories of classical and sub-classical singing genres was organised in Police Commissionerate in different age groups. The event was presided over by UP Minister Dr Dayashankar Mishra ‘Dayalu’. Additional Municipal Commissioner Rajiv Rai, Education Officer Shashikant

Srivastava, Project Officer of DUDA Nidhi Bajpai and many others were also present.

A street drama competition was organised for participants in the age group of 18 to 40 and above 40 at the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Education, Sarnath. The competition was inaugurated by lighting the lamp by MLC Hansraj Vishwakarma. At an event held at Sunbeam Varuna, Zila Panchayat Chairperson Poonam Maurya was the chief guest.

Divisional Commissioner Kaushal Raj Sharma lit the lamp while Sunbeam Group Chairman Deepak Madhok and Director Bharti Madhok welcomed the guests.

In Sant Atulanand Convent School, solo competition category in folk playing Naal and Tasha Damru and cultural competition in group playing Naal Damru and Naal genre was organised.

The event was presided over by Nagendra Raghuvanshi, member Central Khadi Board and local corporator Sandeep Raghuvanshi. At Padma Vibhushan Girija Devi Cultural Complex, Chowkaghat events. The chief guest was MLA Sunil Kumar Patel from Rohaniya.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The ‘Dhai Akhar’ letter writing competition on topic ‘Digital India for New India’ has been launched by Department of Posts. The winners will get prizes from Rs 5,000 to Rs 50,000. The last date for sending entries is October 31.

The Digital India campaign has been started by the Government of India to make citizens of the country aware and digitally empowered. When every citizen of the country is aware and digitally empowered, the country will develop rapidly. In view of this a national level letter writing competition is being organised by the Department of Posts on the topic ‘Digital India for New India’. If letter of the applicant is selected, the applicant will receive a prize ranging from Rs 5,000 to Rs 50,000.

While providing above information, Postmaster

General (PMG), Prayagraj Region, Krishna Kumar Yadav, said for this various schools and colleges can organise their own competitions in association with the Postal Department. The last date has been fixed as October 31.

The PMG said people of any age can participate in the ‘Dhai Akhar’ letter writing competition. The first category will be up to 18 years and the second will be above 18 years of age. The letter will be accepted only in an inland letter or in envelope issued by the Department of Posts in which letter can be written by hand in English, Hindi or local language in 500 and 1,000 words respectively. This letter should be sent to the Postmaster General of the region concerned by October 31 with full name, address, date of birth, mobile number and name of the school of participant. The participants of Prayagraj,

Kaushambi, Pratapgarh, Mirzapur, Sonbhadra, Sultanpur and Amethi districts under Prayagraj region will have to send their letter addressed to the Postmaster General, Prayagraj Region, Prayagraj - 211001.

Yadav said three prizes each in different four categories will be given to the winners of the competition at the state and national levels. The best letter selected at the circle (state) level will be given prizes of Rs 25,000, Rs 10,000 and Rs 5,000 in the first, second and third category respectively. The prizes of Rs 50,000, Rs 25,000 and Rs 10,000 will be given to the best letters selected at the national level in the first, second and third category respectively. Overall, prizes worth Rs 40.20 lakh will be given to the winners across the country. For more information superintendents of various postal divisions and postmas-

ter of the Head Post Office can be contacted.

RUCKUS: Enraged over the death of Nageshwar Singh (24) of Belhat village in the Koraon police station area, the kin created a ruckus and gheraoed the Koraon-Meja Highway bringing the traffic into a standstill for hours here on Tuesday. The operation of youths’ stone was done by doctors and the youth died after some time. Angered by it the family members created a ruckus.

The police reached the spot and somehow pacified the agitators. On information, Koraon police station incharge Vinod Singh reached the spot. After hours, the police convinced the family members. Singh said that investigation is being done on the basis of the complaint filed by the relatives of the deceased. A case will be registered soon and action will be taken.

Jagat Taran School first in group song competition

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The Jagat Taran Golden Jubilee School stood first while Mahila Sewa Sadan Inter College secured the second place in a group song competition organised by Bharat Vikas Parishad Prayagraj and the CAV Inter College got the consolation prize.

The programme was organised at Jwala Devi Saraswati Inter College hall. Former vice-chancellor of Raja Maan Singh Tomar Music and Arts University Prof Swatantra Bala Sharma was the chief guest who garlanded the portrait of Bharat Mata and Swami Vivekanand to inaugurate the competition.

Appreciating the programme Prof Sharma said such competitions inculcate the feel-

ing of nationalism and bravery in the younger generation. She spoke about national heroes and asked children to beware of anti-nationals and their activities of disturbing the fabric of unity in diversity.

President of the organisation Dr Alpana Agrawal welcomed the guests and participating institutions. The judges of the competition were Dr Geeta Banerjee of Sanskrit department of Allahabad University, Dr Sanjay Kumar Singh from Hindi department, Allahabad Degree College and Prof Indu Sharma from Music department, Allahabad Degree College. They also emphasised the need of holding such programmes at regular intervals to awaken national feeling in children.

The coordinator of the

programme Dr Brijesh Kumar conducted the proceedings while vote of thanks was proposed by Dr Purshottam Das. Dr NC Agrawal honoured the chief guest by presenting a memento and a shawl.

Principal of Jwala Devi Saraswati Inter College Vikram Bahadur Singh, Umesh Dutt Bhatt, Prof Jagdish Dwivedi and others, were present.

JOINT DEGREE PROGRAMME: Good news awaits the students doing postgraduation (PG) and research from Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT-A).

The students pursuing MTech, MBA or PhD will be able to obtain degree from renowned educational institutions abroad.

The institute is starting a joint degree programme

wherein in the first phase, PG and research are being added. In the second phase, graduate level courses will also be added.

The postgraduate students will be able to study a part of their course from foreign technical educational institutions and universities. The joint degree will have the name and logo of both the institutions. This decision was taken in the meeting held recently in the institute.

Director of the institute Prof Mukul Sutavane said that after the implementation of the New National Education Policy (NEP), MoUs have been signed with technical institutions of other countries including USA, France, Germany and Korea, where students of the institute will be able to study while pursuing their joint degree.

38 ATVM kiosks installed at 25 railway stations

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As many as 38 Automatic Ticket Vending Machine (ATVM) kiosks have been installed at 25 railway stations of Varanasi Division of North Eastern Railway (NER) on the instructions of Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Vineet Kumar Srivastava. Under the leadership of Senior Divisional Commercial Manager (SDCM) Shaikh Rehman, these ATVM kiosks have been installed at 38 locations in 25 stations of the division to enable passengers to book unreserved tickets in a smart manner by avoiding the hassle of long queues at the unreserved ticket counters.

The SDCM said that now it would be easier for common passengers to get unreserved tickets and they would be able to get unreserved tickets themselves through ATVM kiosks. He informed that four such ATVM kiosks each have been installed at Chhapra Junction and Siwan Junction railway stations, two each at Banaras, Varanasi City, Ghazipur City, Azamgarh, Ballia, Mau and Deoria Sadar stations and one ATVM kiosk each at Prayagraj Rambagh, Gyanpur Road, Siswan Bazaar, Kaptanganj, Suremanpur, Belthara Road, Rasra, Ekma, Jakhania and Aunrihar.

Shaikh Rehman said that through these ATVM kiosks, passengers can not only get unreserved tickets but can also make an inquiry like the station from which one has to go.



He further informed that facilitators have been deputed on all these ATVM kiosks to help the passengers. Nine such facilitators have been deputed in Chhapra, eight in Siwan, three each in Ballia, Mau, Deoria Sadar, two each in Banaras, Varanasi City, Ghazipur City, Prayagraj Rambagh, Indara, Suremanpur, Duraundha, Mairwan, Thawe and Bhatni stations and one each in Azamgarh, Gyanpur Road, Siswan Bazar, Kaptanganj, Belthara Road, Rasra, Ekma, Jakhania and Aunrihar.

Shaikh Rehman said that through these ATVM kiosks, passengers can not only get unreserved tickets but can also make an inquiry like the station from which one has to go.

“Now passengers will not have to stand in long queues. If they wish, they can get their tickets issued through these ATVM kiosks themselves or can get their tickets issued with the help of a facilitator. In this machine, tickets can be obtained by scanning the QR code through Android mobile and making digital payment or in case of any problem, one can get the facility to get one’s journey ticket by paying cash to the facilitators appointed by the Railways at ATVM kiosks,” he said.

Telling about working mechanism of ATVM kiosks, the SDCM said that for travel ticket booking, one has to select the destination station from the map or by entering other station options, select the

ticket type, select passenger number and train type, payment option and then select QR Pay option from any UPI App, scan the QR code shown on the screen and make the payment and do not take it out until the entire ticket is printed and automatically gets separated from the machine, he said, adding that precautions to be taken while using ATVM kiosks as this is a touch screen machine, so please use only finger to select it and do not use pen, pencil or sharp objects to select the screen. Besides, one should also not spit or spill liquids on the kiosk/screen. In case of any inconvenience related to ATVM kiosks, one should contact the Chief Booking Supervisors/Shift Supervisors, he said.

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Uttar Pradesh Minister of State for Rural Development Vijay Laxmi Gautam while holding the meeting of the officials concerned with the Rural Development and Rural Engineering Services at Ashtabhja guest house on Monday directed the officials to carry out works by adopting the norms. After the meeting the minister inspected a Upavan Vatika located at Vijaypur village under Chhanbey block where she planted saplings. During the inspection she was apprised by Chief Development Officer (CDO) Srilaxmi VS that the Vatika was developed within two-three years and around Rs 20 lakh had been spent through MGNREGA. Appreciating the Vatika the minister asked the official concerned to plant saplings to make it more use-

ful. In Kamapur village of Chhanbey block a chaupal was organised in which the minister interacted with people, especially women, and greeted them on the occasion of Teej festival. She watched the Shilaphalakam constructed under the scheme ‘Meri Mati Mera Desh’ and she taught the lesson of nationalism to the people. Inspecting the Amrit Sarovar (pond) the minister appealed to people to maintain the it and make it useful that it can prove to be an asset for the village. She said the government was working for the welfare of every section of the society but online application is necessary for new candidates to avail the facilities. Referring to the new PM Vishwakarma Scheme which was launched by the prime minister on September 17 the minister said 18 types of skilled artisans were covered under the scheme including those who were

involved in their traditional profession like washermen, cobblers, barbers etc. She said loan of up to Rs 3 lakh was available for workers of that category without any security and toolkit worth Rs 15,000 was being provided by the government free of cost. During her visit the minister was accompanied by MLAs Ratnakar Moshra and Rinki Kol, block pramukhs Indra Bahadur Pandey and Suman Singh, veteran BJP leader Dhanendra Pandey and others. Prior to the government programmes the minister performed the rituals at the Vindhayavasi temple.

SHADI ANUDAN YOJANA: Backward Class Welfare Officer Rajesh Sonkar has informed that marriage aid will be sent directly to the beneficiary’s account but that account should be linked to the Aadhar card. Giving details about the changes in the Shadi

Anudan Yojana said from the year 2023-24 verification of Aadhar and e-KYC has been made compulsory for applicants and all process will be carried out through online system. He said persons who had already applied through manual process their applications will not be considered and they were being suggested to submit online applications again.

ARRESTED: The Kachhawan police have arrested an accused in an assault case on Monday. Ajay Kumar Upadhyay of Baraini village under Kachhawan police station had lodged a named case on August 8 alleging that the accused had assaulted him and snatched a gold chain. On being tipped off by an informer the police nabbed the accused Harsh Singh of Bajahaan village under Kachhawan police station, sent him to jail and seized his vehicle.

FIRST COLUMN

SELF-LIBERATION
THROUGH FORGIVENESS


The power to forgive comes from compassion; move with what is good



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

If we want to love, we must learn how to forgive, said Mother Teresa. Like her, many saints, gurus and spiritual teachers have often said to their followers that if anyone misbehaves with you, talks bad about you or indulges in mudslinging and character-assassination, you should forgive such a person and forget about his misdemeanour. They further advise that one should repay such a person with his acts of friendliness and think of improving the self instead of retaliating against such a negative person or person. But the question that most of us would naturally have is that if we forgive such evil-doers and forget about their malicious and maligning campaigns, will we not be letting loose many mad bulls or elephants run amuck? Will we not be encouraging such kinds of people in their nefarious designs and wicked acts? Before we come to any conclusion, one question that we all need to ask ourselves is that - is it as easy to forgive as it sounds to be?

The majority of us would say 'NO' because the ability to forgive others depends on how honest we are with ourselves. Have we journeyed through our life pure, perfect and clean with never a wrong thought, a wrong word or action? If we look at ourselves honestly, then how can we not forgive another person? When we face our shortcomings, then anger against others disappears. In the past, we have all acted wrongly, either because of not knowing what is right, or out of fear or misunderstanding. Looking back on the past, most of us regret many things that we have said or done. With time and knowledge we realize what is right and begin to make amends. Just by having the desire to do this, we begin this process of our forgiveness. If this process is to progress, we have to forgive others. We cannot condemn others and excuse ourselves. This is cheating and the universally applicable Law of Karma will not allow it.



There can be many answers to the questions raised by many individuals regarding forgiveness, however, what we should understand in our capacity as human beings is that, if the tendencies to evil or misbehaviour are within tolerable limits and are not likely to obtain a boost by our action of forgiveness and if the person charged with misconduct expresses sincere regrets and apologies after deep realisation of his evil acts, then we should forgive and forget else we should take such preventive, non-violent, non-aggressive steps that do not downgrade our worth as a human being. And, let us remember that vengeance, vindictiveness, violence, virulent acts, vile and guile or wickedness and wrong-doing are not the ways of a noble-minded person.

Remember! The power to forgive comes from compassion, which means we should compassionately and peacefully move forward with what is good, towards what is better. But before we start to forgive others, we must learn to forgive ourselves, otherwise, the process of releasing the burden would neither begin nor progress. Forgiving ourselves means letting go of the past. But it also means not making the same mistakes again and again; not inventing convenient ways to excuse ourselves. A person who has hardened his own heart against others cannot feel even God's forgiveness and compassion. Hence, if we want to be forgiven, then we must be willing to forgive first because the one who forgives first not only proves his justice but especially proves his love. That is why it is said that 'A life well lived is your best revenge'. So, instead of focusing on your wounded feelings, and thereby giving the person who caused you pain, the power over you, learn to look for the love, beauty and kindness around you. This will make the world a better place to live in.

(Writer is a spiritual educator & popular columnist for publications across India, Nepal & UK)

How green are the electric vehicles?



GOVIND BHATTACHARJEE

Electric vehicles are not the ultimate solution for our environment. The solution lies in adjusting our lifestyles, consumption and mobility patterns

India has set an ambitious target of 30 per cent Electric Vehicle (EV) penetration in private cars, 70 per cent in commercial vehicles, and 80 per cent in two and three-wheelers by 2030. To achieve the targets, the Government is giving various incentives to buyers and manufacturers of EVs, including subsidies, tax relief etc. Across the world also, automakers are being prodded by their governments to promote the sale of EVs to fight climate change. But how green, truly, are the EVs? While EVs are more climate-friendly than our traditional cars driven by internal combustion engines (ICE), they are not free from their adverse impacts on the environment. Let me make it clear that this is not an article against EV which is the road to the future, but that road needs to be negotiated with caution, and not craze.

A vehicle's impact on the environment can be judged by the totality of its impact on production, running and scrapping at the end of its useful life. Let us consider these stages one by one. As regards production, to assess the amount of greenhouse gases (GHGs) emitted during EV manufacture, we need to estimate how their components are made and where their raw materials are sourced from. While manufacturing an ICE car based on petrol or diesel or an EV without its battery releases about the same amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) - about 7 to 10 tonnes, it is the EV-battery production that adds significantly to the emission.

The battery is the heart of an EV, and about 150 kgs of CO₂ are released to create every kilo-watt-hour (kWh) of battery capacity. An average EV consumes 0.20 kWh per km, and for an EV to have a decent range (say 300 km) between charges, it needs a battery capacity of 60kWh, which means additional CO₂-emission of 9 tonnes, which makes an EV almost twice as environment-unfriendly as an ICE-car. Making EVs thus evidently creates more emissions, and improving technology is the only solution. Also, while the EVs don't emit toxic exhaust fumes, their batteries can emit toxic fumes, if damaged.

The raw materials for the battery have to be mined, and the process of mining, refining and transportation also adds a lot of GHGs. The raw materials include rare earth materials like lithium, and neodymium, besides copper, cobalt, aluminium, nickel and also manganese and graphite. The rare earth materials are available only in a few countries. Lithium, the third element in the periodic table of elements, is lighter compared to other elements used in batteries like lead and has an extra electron in its outermost shell which increases power flow through the cell.

While Australia is currently the largest supplier of lithium, the 'lithium triangle' of Bolivia, Chile and Argentina accounts for half the total global reserves. But it is China that controls 77 per cent of the global lithium-ion battery manufacturing capacity and is home to six of the world's 10 largest manufacturing companies. India currently imports all of its lithium from Australia and Argentina and 70 per cent of its lithium-ion cell requirements from China. The recent discovery of large lithium reserves in Rajasthan and Jammu may catapult





WHILE AUSTRALIA IS CURRENTLY THE LARGEST SUPPLIER OF LITHIUM, THE 'LITHIUM TRIANGLE' OF BOLIVIA, CHILE AND ARGENTINA ACCOUNTS FOR HALF THE TOTAL GLOBAL RESERVES

(The writer, a former Director General at the Office of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India, is currently a Professor at the Arun Jaitley Institute of Financial Management; views expressed are personal)

India to become a major producer of the element in future.

Mining lithium is hazardous and leads to the emission of significant amounts of GHGs. Further, extraction of every tonne of lithium requires 500,000 litres of water, and lithium mining can pollute the air and water with chemicals and heavy metals. A 2019 study shows that 40 per cent of the adverse climatic impact from the production of lithium-ion batteries comes from the mining process itself. It is indeed a paradox that the clean energy of EVs can come only from dirty mining. Another metal used extensively in EV batteries is cobalt, of which 70 per cent of the world's reserves are in the Democratic Republic of Congo - one the poorest countries in the world and a failed state. Its mining is akin to modern-day slavery which is not limited to adult men and women only - children as young as four are often forced to work as slaves to extract cobalt with nothing other than primitive hand-held tools; in fact, they grow as slaves into adulthood while still mining lithium in a never-ending loop through generations. Scarcity of the rare earth elements will limit the transition to EVs across the world unless technology brings a solution. There are also geopolitical issues associated with their extraction. The alternatives suggested like green hydrogen or bio-fuels are equally unviable - 99 per cent of the world's hydrogen is still produced from fossil fuels and increasing biofuel production may compromise the area available for food production.

But the most important factor is that EVs are only as green as their power sources. Their environmental impact depends on how the electricity that charges them is made, and these are not green, as of now, in most countries. The share of coal in electricity production varies from 20 per cent in the USA to 63 per cent in China and 73 per cent in India. A coal-fired power station emits about 800 grammes of CO₂ per kWh, while renewable sources like solar panels or wind turbines emit only 36 grammes. The solution thus lies in greening the electricity grid, and there is a long way to go for that. Till then, switching to EVs will only add to GHGs in our atmosphere. Emissions will drop only when we make our grids zero-carbon.

At present it is a mix of renewable and non-renewable sources, and this energy mix used to recharge EV batteries strongly impacts their carbon footprint. The net negative impact of EVs today is greater for coal-intensive countries like India, China or Poland compared to the ICE cars. EVs will become an attractive option only with the gradual decarbonisation of electricity. Only six countries - China, the USA, Japan, Canada, Norway, and the UK - now have EV market shares above one per cent of the total vehicle sales. A Thomson-Reuters study projects the best scenario that by 2040, half of the vehicles on the road will still be powered by fossil fuels, but all new vehicles sold will be EVs only. While it will significantly reduce CO₂ emission by almost 40 per cent, it will also lead to much-increased demand for electricity to power these EVs - an additional electricity generation of 3,000 terawatt hours would be needed by 2050 to meet that demand.

To put that figure in perspective, the EU today generates a total of 3,200 terawatt hours. Imagine the renewable and non-renewable sources that will have to be tapped - and their carbon footprints - to power the global fleet of future EVs, not to talk about the huge additional investments needed. Disposal of these batteries also poses a threat to the climate. Though they contain less toxic waste than other batteries and have much longer lives, a study from Australia found that 98 per cent of them end up in landfills, increasing the chances of landfill fires that can burn for years; these are now becoming increasingly more common.

For our environment, EVs are thus not the ultimate solution. The solution lies in adjusting our lifestyles, consumption and mobility patterns. Limiting the production of new EVs means promoting alternatives like walking, cycling, public transport, carpools shared vehicles, etc. with the same urgency that we are today showing towards EVs. We must employ all the levers, technological and non-technological - to shift to sustainable mobility and a sustainable world.

Reign in coaching centres in the country

Coaching centres have only fostered a fiercely unhealthy competition among students which is taking a heavy toll on their mental health

A few weeks ago, a leading daily newspaper carried the account of increasing suicide cases by students undertaking coaching for competitive examinations in Kota, Rajasthan, the prime centre for the coaching industry in India. The following paragraph is extracted from the article Kota: As student suicides soar, ministers blame coaching 'mafia', the burden of education loans, published in Times of India on 29th August 2023.

Minister Mahesh Joshi recently said that the burden of educational loans on parents was one of the causes of stress among the students and the Centre must formulate a policy so that the parents do not have to borrow money for education. Food and Civil Supplies



ATUL SEHGAL

(The author is a management consultant based in New Delhi; views are personal)

Minister Pratap Singh Khachariyawas alleged that coaching institutes in Kota were only interested in collecting money. He termed coaching centres as Mafia and said the government would have to take strict action against them. "When we were children, there was no coaching. Were students not becoming IPS then? A mafia has emerged in the name of coaching and the government will have to take strict action against it", Khachariyawas said.

Viewed deeply and analytically, it has become a net drain on national resources. It distorted the already incongruous educational system foisted on the country during India's colonial period in the early 19th century (1835) by the Britisher Thomas Babington

Macaulay.

All coaching centres in India should be banned. Here are seven reasons why.

- They do not serve the professed basic purpose of coaching for competitive examinations—selection of best applicants or aspirants. The best students will be selected even if there are no coaching centres. In fact, in the absence of coaching centres selection of the best students will be more genuine because it will be based on self-study and raw talent.
- Coaching centres are partly the product of a non-uniform pattern of education in the country in which different syllabi and text materials are prescribed for different states.
- Coaching centres are a

huge drain on the monetary resources of economically middle and lower-class families who have to educate their children for professional streams. The huge expenditure often breaks the back of poor families who have to run this rate race.

- A limited number of seats in professional institutions and a burgeoning student population make the competition tougher and tougher each year. This stresses the young aspirants physically and mentally. Many of them, unfortunately, failing to cope with this enormous stress, end their precious lives. The current market revenue of the coaching industry in India is Rs 58,088 crore, according to Infinium Global Research, a consultancy firm based in Pune. The coaching industry's growth is projected to reach Rs 1,33,995 crore by 2028. This is a colossal waste because this industry is providing no net value addition to our student community and society at large.
- As mentioned above, we have to gauge the adverse effect of coaching centres on established, formal schools and educational institutions. They suffer because many of their regular teachers neglect their jobs and perform part-time private tuitions which groom the students to make them coaching centre-ready.
- Our industry should be productive, creative, innovative and progressive for all sections of society. Industries that run parallel to and are detrimental to existing established institutions are a bane for society and the nation at large. The coaching industry is one such industry that has inflicted incalculable harm to the existing educational institutions and has economically burdened the society by creating unhealthy, morbid competition which is manifesting itself in such symptoms as suicides by frustrated students. Our government should realize this stark truth and come down heavily on the coaching mafia playing havoc with our society. Our society has traditionally maintained an economic environment of cooperation, collaboration and healthy competition but these coaching centres have only fostered a fiercely unhealthy competition which is slowly and surely killing the spirit of creativity and entrepreneurship among the students affected by it in large numbers. Our elite should put pressure on the government to promulgate laws that will put an end to all coaching centres in the country.
- Needless to say, the government must establish more professional institutions of good standard to serve the needs of the burgeoning population. Encouraging start-ups and entrepreneurship in a bigger way will also bring down the enormous competition generated due to limited seats in academic institutions and limited professional positions in government organizations. The coaching industry is outright non-productive and should be done away with as early as possible.

Weaponising disruptions in Parliament antithetical to democracy: Dhankar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Urging Members of Parliament to bury the strategy of "weaponising" disturbances and disruptions in parliamentary functioning, Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Tuesday said these are antithetical to democratic values.

Addressing a function to commemorate the rich legacy of the Parliament of India in the iconic Central Hall of the old Parliament building, he also called for emulating the exemplary conduct and decorum of the members of the Constituent Assembly.

Dhankhar said the time has come to give up the justification of transgression of conduct and outrageous disregard of rules in the temples of democracy by making reference to past instances.

"As we march into the new Parliament building, we must



enhance cooperation and consensual approach. Time for us to bid farewell to confrontational stance and resolve to ever keep national interest uppermost," he told the gathering of parliamentarians in the central hall.

"Time to bury the strategy of weaponising disturbance and disruptions in parliamentary functioning as these are antithetical to democratic values and can never have the sanction of the people – our

ultimate masters," Dhankhar said.

"Time has come to give up once and for all the premise of justifying the transgression of conduct and outrageous disregard of rules in the temples of democracy by making reference to past instances," he added.

The Vice President said, "In this very chamber, the members of the Constituent Assembly embarked upon the journey to accomplish the

daunting task of drafting the Constitution."

He said the deliberations in the Constituent Assembly in this theatre exemplified decorum and healthy debate. "Contentious issues were negotiated in a spirit of consensus with scholarly debate and spirited deliberations. We need to emulate the exemplary conduct of our founding fathers," he noted.

Dhankhar also recalled the final speech of B R Ambedkar in the Constituent Assembly where he had said, "If we wish to maintain democracy not merely in form, but also in fact, what must we do? The first thing in my judgement we must do is to hold fast to constitutional methods of achieving our social and economic objectives."

"Let us heed his clarion call," Dhankhar asserted.

"This historic walk to the new building of Parliament, in Amrit Kaal, be the march to

Bharat in 2047 as a Vishwaguru," the Chairman said. He also called for making the new chambers of Parliament the sanctum sanctorum of "our temple of democracy in togetherness".

Marking the day as a "momentous occasion", he said, "I congratulate you all on our phenomenal rise. Traversing over a seven-decade journey, from Samvidhan Sabha to the present day in Amrit Kaal, these hallowed precincts have witnessed many a milestone."

Dhankhar also said "From the 'tryst with destiny' at midnight of 15th August 1947, to unfolding of innovative forward-looking GST regime at midnight of June 30, 2017, and now this day."

In this very Central Hall, Rajya Sabha chairman said, the members of the Constituent Assembly embarked upon the journey to accomplish the daunting task of drafting the Constitution of India.

—RAJYA SABHA: DAY 1— Heated exchanges between Treasury, Opposition benches



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The first day of the Rajya Sabha sitting in the new Parliament House on Tuesday witnessed heated exchanges between the treasury and Opposition benches after Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge made remarks on the manner in which political parties select women candidates from weaker sections and raised the issue of "delayed" GST payments to non-BJP ruled states.

Addressing the Upper House at its first sitting, during which Prime Minister Narendra Modi was present, Kharge, who is the Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha, referred to the Women Reservation Bill which was passed in 2010 in the House.

His comments that all political parties only give tickets to those women from backward classes who cannot assert themselves evoked sharp reactions from the treasury benches.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the "sweeping statement" of Kharge that all parties do not choose effective women candidates is "absolutely unacceptable".

"I speak on behalf of all our women. We all have been empowered by our party, by our Hon'ble Prime Minister. Hon'ble Rashtrapati Droupadi Murmu ji is an empowered woman. Every (female) MP of my party is an empowered woman," she added.

Sitharaman stressed that the opposition leader cannot insult

people like this.

To this, Kharge, who is president of the Congress party, said: "Women belonging to backward classes, scheduled caste women do not get the kind of opportunities she (Sitharaman) gets". Sitharaman again objected and asked, "Who is Droupadi Murmu? Opposition leader cannot insult the people like this, cannot draw a differentiation between women... We are asking for reservation for all women".

After the intervention of Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar, House proceedings continued. Kharge said he welcomes the women's reservation bill titled Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam.

Later Kharge referred to the remarks made by Prime Minister Modi regarding federal structure and competitive federalism in the country and alleged, "Federal structure is being weakened under your leadership day-by-day". This statement was vociferously objected to by BJP members.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said the prime minister's speech was totally "apolitical", unbiased and balanced, and urged Kharge to speak in the House like a "statesman". The senior Congress leader accused the central government of engineering the fall of governments led by opposition parties in states like Maharashtra, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh.

This remark too was vehemently objected to by the ruling party MPs. Kharge also

accused the central government of delaying GST dues to the non-BJP state governments and also grants for welfare schemes like MNREGA.

However, Finance Minister Sitharaman challenged the statement regarding the payments of dues. "A factually incorrect statement has been made by the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) wherein he's saying that GST revenue is not given to the states on time. This is absolutely wrong," she said.

The minister also told the House that her ministry even borrowed money and paid to the states. "Three times we have paid the money in advance. There is no money pending for any state in GST and there is no delay in payment to the states. It is wrong on the part of the LoP to blame like this," Sitharaman added.

Chairman Dhankhar asked both the finance minister and Leader of the Opposition to table documents in supporting their remarks on the table of the House during the course of the day. Kharge's remarks that the prime minister can speak for 2-3 hours but will not say anything on the Manipur situation also evoked a sharp reaction from the BJP members.

Dhankhar said that he was ready for a discussion on the Manipur issue in the House but it could not take place because of objections by opposition members. The House proceedings were adjourned till Wednesday morning after Kharge's speech.

India-Malaysia review bilateral ties at 12th defence cooperation panel meet

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India and Malaysia on Tuesday reviewed the entire spectrum of their defence ties here and explored effective and practical initiatives to further expand bilateral defence engagements during the 12th meeting of Malaysia-India Defence Cooperation Committee (MIDCOM).

Giving details of the parleys, defence ministry officials said both sides assessed the existing defence cooperation between the two countries and held wide-ranging discussions on issues of mutual interest including regional issues.

They agreed to establish a Strategic Affairs working Group (SAWG) to formulate a consultative mechanism intermediate between the MIDCOM and the two Sub-committees to handle all aspects of the defence cooperation between the two countries.

The meeting was co-chaired by Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane and Deputy Secretary General (Policy), Malaysia Mohd Yani bin Daud. During the meeting, both sides reviewed the outcomes of the two sub-committee meetings name-



ly Sub Committee on Military Cooperation held on July 27, 2023 and Joint Sub Committee on Defence Science Technology and Industry Cooperation held on September 18, 2023.

The two chairs also articulated steps in the direction of emerging areas of cooperation like cyber security and issues pertaining to global commons. They identified means to enhance existing areas of collaboration, especially in the field of

defence industry, maritime security and multilateral cooperation.

During the MIDCOM, the Defence Secretary shared an 8-point proposal with the Malaysian side to expand cooperation between India and Malaysia on a wide range of areas such as Government to government-level engagement, Tri-Service cooperation, Training, UN Peacekeeping, Bilateral Services Engagement, Defence Industrial Cooperation, Research & Development and Regional/ Sub-Regional Engagements.

The Defence Secretary highlighted the potential of the domestic defence industry with capacity and capability to cooperate with the Malaysian Armed Forces in its shipbuilding and maintenance plans. Malaysia expressed confidence in the capability of the Indian defence industry and discussed possibilities for co-design, co-production and co-development in the field of defence industry.

Both countries reaffirmed their commitment to implement fully the Enhanced Strategic Partnership based on mutual trust and understanding, common interests and shared values of democracy & rule of law.

It's ours, says Sonia amid Opposition reactions to women's reservation Bill

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Mixed reactions poured in amongst the Opposition parties over the women reservation bill in a rechristened format – Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam – after it was introduced in Parliament on Tuesday. Some of the women leaders welcome the move, Congress too appreciated but with a rider that the Bill was first introduced by the Congress. JD(U) and BJD mentioned that the Bill on women reservation was inspired by their party.

Congress' parliamentary party chief Sonia Gandhi said the women's reservation bill brought by the Narendra Modi government should have provided separate quotas for those belonging to SCs, STs and OBCs. She also alleged that the bill was "a gimmick, aimed just at making some noise" since the implementation was proposed only after a fresh round of delimitation.

Odisha's ruling BJD said Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's efforts bore fruit with the Narendra Modi government introducing the women's reservation bill in Lok Sabha. BJD vice-president Debi Prasad Mishra said his party nominated 33 per cent women candidates from the state in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Of the seven women candidates fielded by the party, five won the elections. The BJD government has also reserved 50 per cent of seats for women in the local bodies of the state, he said.

According to Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, reservation for women should be a balance of gender justice and social justice and demanded clarity on share of backward, Dalit, minority, and tribals in the seats set aside.

While AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi said the government should have also provided for reservation of Muslim and OBC, AAP



quota is not met.

Former Bihar Chief Minister Rabri Devi said the women's reservation bill brought by the Narendra Modi government should have provided separate quotas for those belonging to SCs, STs and OBCs. She also alleged that the bill was "a gimmick, aimed just at making some noise" since the implementation was proposed only after a fresh round of delimitation.

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While AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi said the government should have also provided for reservation of Muslim and OBC, AAP

leader and Delhi minister Atishi questioned the provision of delimitation and census.

"This means that women reservation won't be implemented ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls," she said.

Another Opposition party hailing allegiance to the India bloc, Janat Dal (U) claimed that Women's Reservation Bill brought by the Narendra Modi government was "inspired" by quotas for women brought long ago by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

"Bihar, in 2006, became the first state in the country where women were given 50 per cent reservations in local bodies and Panchayats.

Nitish Kumar took the bold step within months of taking over as Chief Minister in November 2005", a statement to this effect was issued by JD(U) national general secretary and spokesman Rajib Ranjan who asserted "the bill proves that Bihar shows the way".

Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal attacked the government asking why did Prime Minister Narendra Modi wait for almost 10 years for it and saying that probably 2024 general elections is the reason. Sibal, who was a Union minister during the UPA 1 and 2 regimes, quit the Congress in May last year and was elected to the Rajya Sabha as an independent member with the Samajwadi Party's support.

Government fixes retail price for 51 drugs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The country's top drug regulator, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has fixed the retail price of 51 formulations, including pain killers, pulmonary drugs, and those used to treat high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes, and bacterial infections. Fixing the retail price of these daily used drugs particularly diabetes will come as a huge relief to the patients in the sector.

An official from the NPPA said that the decision was taken at the 116th Authority meeting held on September 6 where the authority deliberated on the new drug applications for price fixation under various clauses of drugs prices control order,



2013.

These include Synokem pharmaceutical/Torrent Pharmaceuticals' fixed dose combination Rosuvastatin plus Clopidogrel Capsules, Daiwik Pharmsphere/ Aristo Pharmaceuticals' Diclofenac Diethylamine, Methyl Salicylate and Menthol Gel, E x e m e d

Pharmaceuticals/Abbott Healthcare's Linagliptin and Metformin Hydrochloride Tablets, Sai Primus Life Biotech/Primus Remedies' Linagliptin plus Metformin Hydrochloride Tablet.

The list further includes, Skymap Pharmaceuticals' Linagliptin plus Metformin Hydrochloride Tablet, Skymap

Pharmaceuticals/ Glensmith Labs' Linagliptin plus Metformin Hydrochloride Tablet, Lucent Biotech/Torrent Pharmaceuticals Pantoprazole Sodium (EC) and Levosulpiride (SR) Capsules.

The retail prices for the fixed-dose combinations of Linagliptin and Metformin Hydrochloride Tablets manufactured and marketed by Macleods Pharmaceuticals, Linagliptin and Metformin Hydrochloride (ER) Tablets manufactured and marketed by Synokem Pharmaceuticals and Cipla, and Cefuroxime Axetil and Potassium Clavulanate FDC Tablets manufactured and marketed by Hetero Labs and Sun Pharmaceuticals among a few others has also been fixed.

In case the retail price of any of the aforesaid formula-

tions is not complied with, as per instant price notification and notes specified hereinabove, then the concerned manufacturer/marketing company shall be liable to deposit the overcharged amount along with the interest thereon under the provisions of the DPCO, 2013 read with the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, said the notification issued by the NPPA which is available on the authority's website. The details of the fixed prices are also available in the notification.

The official said that all stakeholders, retailers and stockists, will have to inform about the change in prices in 15 days. If a company fails to do so, action under the Essential Commodities Act will be taken against companies.

Research finds link between non-stick cookware, cancer

ARCHANA JYOTI ■
NEW DELHI

Are certain chemicals including polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), which are used in thousands of household and industrial products, including in stain- and heat-resistant items like non-stick cookwares fueling the rise in ovarian, skin, breast and other types of cancers in women?

A new research funded by the US government based on data collected by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has found evidence of this disturbing link. The study is published in the Journal of Exposure Science and Environmental Epidemiology

The researchers also found similar links between women diagnosed with cancer and high exposures to phenols, which are commonly used in food packaging, dyes and personal care products. They did not find similar associations between the chemicals and cancer diagnoses in men.



PFAS is referred to as 'forever chemicals' due to their longevity in the environment. These are found in products such as Teflon pans, waterproof clothing, stain-resistant carpets and fabrics, and food packaging.

The study showed that women in particular who were more exposed to PFDE, a long-chain PFAS compound, were twice as likely to have a previous melanoma (form of skin cancer) diagnosis.

While the women with higher exposure to two other long-chained PFAS compounds, PFNA (Proximal

Femoral Nail Antirotation) and PFUA (Perfluoroundecanoic acid) had nearly double the odds of a prior melanoma diagnosis.

Researchers had analysed blood and urine samples from more than 10,000 people and found a link between PFNA and a prior diagnosis of uterine cancer.

They found that women with higher exposure to phenols, such as BPA (used in plastics) and 2,5-dichlorophenol (a chemical used in dyes and found as a by-product in wastewater treatment), had higher odds of prior ovarian cancer diagnoses.

Work from home can result in reduced carbon footprint: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Opting for hybrid working or work from home can result in a reduced carbon footprint compared to full-time office work, according to a new study.

Published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, the study found that hybrid workers who work from home two to four days per week can reduce their carbon footprint by 11 percent to 29 percent, but working from home one day per week is cutting carbon footprint by only 2 per cent.

The study, conducted by researchers at Cornell University and Microsoft, used survey data and modelling to incorporate factors sometimes overlooked when calculating carbon footprint, including residential energy use based on time-use allocation, non-commute distance and mode of transportation, communications device usage, number of household members and office



configuration, such as seat sharing and building size.

"Remote work is not zero carbon, and the benefits of hybrid work are not perfectly linear," said study senior author Fengqi You, a professor in energy systems engineering at Cornell.

The study found that seat sharing among hybrid workers under full-building attendance can reduce carbon footprint by 28 percent. Hybrid workers tend to commute farther than onsite workers due to differences in housing choices.

According to the study, effects of remote and hybrid work on communications technologies such as computer, phone and internet usage have negligible impacts on overall carbon footprint.

Govt to tweak PLI schemes for pharma, textiles, drone sectors

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government may soon tweak the production-linked incentive scheme for pharmaceuticals, drones and textiles sectors to encourage investment and boost manufacturing, an official said.

These sectors have been identified after inter-ministerial consultations on the performance of the scheme for various products.

The official also said that disbursement of production-linked incentives (PLI) for white goods (AC and LED lights) would start this month and that would push the amount of disbursement, which was only Rs 2,900 crore till March 2023.

The scheme was announced in 2021 for 14 sectors such as telecommunications, white goods, textiles, manufacturing of medical devices, automobiles, speciality steel, food products, high-efficiency solar PV modules, advanced chemistry cell battery, drones and pharma with



an outlay of Rs 1.97 lakh crore. "We have identified the sectors. We are going to send the combined note to seek approval of the Union Cabinet. The changes include extending some time (for pharma sector) and adding some additional products in some sectors.

"In textiles, we are expanding the definition of certain other products in the technical textiles segment; in drones, we are increasing the amount," the government official, who did not wish to be named said.

The total amount allocated for the PLI scheme for

drones and drone components is Rs 120 crore spread over three financial years.

A senior official of the commerce and industry ministry had earlier stated that some course corrections or tweaking were needed in PLI schemes that were not doing well.

PLI schemes for sectors which are not picking up well include high-efficiency solar PV modules, advanced chemistry cell (ACC) batteries, textile products and speciality steel.

On the other hand, the

scheme is doing well in sectors such as electronics, pharma, medical devices, telecom, food processing, and white goods.

The government is trying to sort out issues such as timely processing of claims, visa-related matters where vendors require Chinese professionals' expertise, and delay in getting environmental clearances that have been raised by certain stakeholders of PLI schemes.

The purpose of the scheme is to attract investments in key sectors and cutting-edge technology; ensure efficiency and bring economies of size and scale in the manufacturing sector; and make Indian companies and manufacturers globally competitive.

These schemes for all 14 sectors have been notified by the concerned ministries/departments after due approval. These schemes are in various stages of implementation.

The government is expected to disburse about Rs 13,000 crore to eligible firms seeking benefits under the schemes.

SMEV writes to Gadkari, seeks unified policy of road tax exemption for EVs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Society of Manufacturers of Electric Vehicles (SMEV) on Tuesday urged the government to formulate a unified policy of road tax exemption for Electric Vehicles (EVs) across the country.

In a letter to the Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, SMEV said a consistent and favourable policy environment is essential to accelerate the shift towards electric mobility in India.

"I am writing to request your esteemed office to weigh in on a unified policy of road tax exemption for EVs that will play a pivotal role in encouraging the adoption of clean and sustainable transportation options, which is vital for our nation's environmental and economic future," SMEV Chief Evangelist Sanjay Kaul wrote.

In July, SMEV had named Kaul as its Chief Evangelist to help revise the association's agenda.

In view of the Ministry of Heavy Industries' decision to



reduce the subsidy component mid-way through the FAME II scheme, this input (unified policy of road tax exemption for EVs) from the government would become even more relevant and critical, he stated.

Road tax and registration fees aren't just bureaucratic formalities; they're pivotal factors influencing the rise or fall of EVs, Kaul said.

"These fees can act as either a carrot or a stick, nudging consumers toward greener choices or pushing them back into the arms of traditional gas-guzzlers. EVs often carry a heftier price tag due to their advanced battery systems, so these extra upfront costs can be the tipping

point that deters would-be buyers," he said.

The patchwork of road tax policies across states is a roadblock to the EV revolution, Kaul said.

While some states like Uttar Pradesh and Punjab have already waived road tax and registration fees, others lag woefully behind, he wrote.

"This uneven playing field doesn't just sow confusion; it actively discourages eager EV adopters, stalling the momentum of a market ready to shift into high gear.

"Even more disheartening are states like Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, who once enticed buyers with tax breaks only to backtrack and impose taxes, adding yet

another hurdle in the race toward a sustainable future," he noted.

Inconsistent tax policies across states are not merely confusing; they are crippling the EV movement in its tracks, Kaul stated.

"What India needs now is a unified, favourable framework that supercharges our transition to electric mobility. A centralised advisory from your esteemed office can cut through the noise and set the stage for widespread adoption of this groundbreaking technology," he added.

By issuing a nationwide advisory that advocates for a uniform policy on road tax exemptions for EVs, the government has a unique opportunity to drive India into a cleaner, greener future, he said.

Kaul has been tasked with helping the EV sector tide over the crisis faced since last year with almost all OEMs in the sector dealing with issues of non-compliance with policy details of the FAME II scheme.

'Working on using AI to reduce pendency of consumer cases'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Consumer Affairs Ministry on Tuesday said it is working on using artificial intelligence (AI) to reduce the pendency of cases in various consumer courts in the country.

The ministry also said the National Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission (NCDRC) has successfully resolved 854 cases during August, the highest disposal rate in the current year.

This was possible due to proactive steps taken by the NCDRC, streamlined processes and advanced technology like E-daakhil, which helped resolve cases faster than ever before, it added.

"In furtherance of keeping the same momentum of disposal of cases, the Department has made filing of cases through E-daakhil in consumer commissions compulsory and soon going to launch the feature of VC (video conference) on E-daakhil," the ministry said in a statement.

As the scope of artificial intelligence is increasing rapidly, the ministry is "also working on using the AI facilities in reducing the pendency of cases



in the National, State and District Consumer Commissions," it added.

The case filed in the Consumer Commissions will be analysed through AI and will generate the summary of the case and many more actions will be done through AI in resolving the case, the statement said.

According to the ministry, NCDRC has significantly improved the disposal of consumer cases in the commission in 2023. NCDRC and the Department of Consumer Affairs successfully resolved 854 consumer cases in August, whereas the filing of cases during the same period was 455, making it the highest disposal rate of 188 per cent this year, it said.

This achievement underscores the NCDRC's unwavering commitment to safeguarding consumer rights and ensuring prompt redressal of grievances, the ministry said.

Even the regular monitoring of consumer cases by the ministry and holding various one-day regional workshops in Guwahati and Chandigarh helped expedite the process.

The ministry also conducted sector-specific brainstorming sessions on insurance and real estate to reduce the pendency in the consumer commissions.

State-specific meetings in various states like Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Bihar, Maharashtra and Kerala were also held, the statement added.

Staff shortage at DGCA delays issuance of pilot licences

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is taking at least a couple of months to issue licences to trained pilots as the regulator is grappling with the shortage of staff at key positions, according to sources.

After training, individuals need to obtain a Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL) to be eligible to fly commercial flights.

Sources in the civil aviation ministry said that at present, a pilot has to wait for a couple of months to get his or her licence and the pendency time is likely to go up in the coming months.

"The Directorate of Training and Licensing (DTL), under the Operations Department which deals with licensing, has a total of 129 sanctioned posts of assistant directors. Of those, 92 posts or almost 72 per cent of the total strength are lying vacant," one of the sources said.

Till July 2022, the DGCA had only 72 sanctioned posts of assistant directors. In August 2022, the ministry created 57 new posts and the sanctioned strength rose to 129 positions.

"However, DGCA has failed to initiate any process to fill the 57 newly created posts. As many as 35 old posts out of the 72 that fell vacant due to



retirement or promotions of the employees are also lying vacant," the source said.

When contacted, DGCA Director General Vikram Dev Dutt did not offer any comment on the issues.

However, a senior official on the condition of anonymity said that the hiring process is tedious and time-consuming, and that is the reason for the delay in filling crucial posts.

As per the DGCA's own 'Standard of Service', after due process, a CPL has to be issued within three days.

Further, the source said the regulator published an advertisement through the Union Public Service Commission (PSC) for filling entry-level posts in airworthiness, legal

and air safety areas. However, no advertisement for filling the posts in the operations cadre at the entry level for assistant directors that deal with the licensing process has been issued, the source added.

The sources at the ministry said that institutes which provide training for drone flying have to get a licence from the DGCA. Over a dozen such institutes have applied for licences but their applications are lying for approval for a considerable amount of time, they added.

"Companies that sell drones to trained pilots have to obtain a UIN (Unique Identification Number) from the DGCA for each drone. Similarly, trained drone pilots

also have to get a licence from the DGCA to fly drones.

Aviation experts, who are aware of the issue, said that the pendency time in issuing licences to pilots might go up as the operations department under DTL is under the restructuring process due to which the files are moving among DGCA, the ministry and the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).

"So far as I know, even the higher positions such as the post of Deputy Director Generals (DDGs) are also facing severe shortage as the DGCA initiated new recruitment rules last year for these posts. "Out of total 18 DDGs posts at DGCA, 9 are vacant.

As many as 7 out of these 9 posts were created in August 2022," Captain SS Panesar, Ex-Director of Flight Safety and Training at Indian Airlines, said.

According to him, in the absence of recruitment rules, the feeder cadre, -- directors from legal, airworthiness, operations, flying training aircraft and engineering, among other departments, could not be promoted.

"This has also resulted in a roadblock in the career progression of all group A officers in DGCA and in future, will severely impact the aviation industry. The ministry immediately needs to fill all these technical positions with competent and highly skilled professionals," he said.

The operations department, which deals with drone licensing too, has crucial positions such as Deputy Director General (DDG), Director Operations and Deputy Director Operations remaining vacant for more than a year.

"There is pendency in all these services due to lack of officials," one of the sources said.

The sources also claimed that even Air Traffic Controllers Licensing and Aerodrome Licensing processes are also moving at a snail's pace.

FROM PAGE 1

TRUDEAU UNLEASHES KHALISTAN TERROR

Allegations of the Government of India's involvement in any act of violence in Canada are absurd and motivated," the MEA said before announcing the expulsion of the Canadian diplomat.

The MEA said the "inaction" of the Canadian Government on this matter has been "long-standing" and of continuing concern.

In his talks with Trudeau' on September 10, Modi conveyed India's strong concerns about continuing anti-India activities of extremist elements in Canada as they are promoting secessionism and inciting violence against Indian diplomats and threatening the Indian community there.

In July, India summoned the Canadian envoy and issued a demarche over the increasing activities by pro-Khalistani elements in Canada, days after posters featuring names of India's senior diplomats serving in Canada surfaced in certain areas in that country.

In June, a video emerged on social media that showed a float depicting the assassination of Indira Gandhi. It was reportedly part of a parade that was organised by some Khalistani elements in Brampton.

Hardeep Singh Nijjar, who headed the Khalistani Tiger Force and the Canadian arm of Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), was shot dead by unknown attackers near a gurdwara in Surrey in June. Nijjar, who was from Jalandhar, moved to Canada in 1997. He was wanted in India for being the "mastermind" of the Khalistani Tiger Force, a designated terror group in India.

Last July, the Indian anti-terror agency announced a cash reward of ₹10 lakh on Nijjar in connection with the murder of a Hindu priest in Jalandhar, Punjab. Nijjar was also accused in the 2007 bombing of a cinema in Punjab. The NIA is also probing the recent attacks on Indian diplomatic missions in Canada, UK and US.

Meanwhile, soon after Prime Minister Trudeau's statement, the US

said it is "deeply concerned" about the allegations. "The US was deeply concerned about the allegations disclosed by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau", National Security Council spokesperson Adrienne Watson said in an emailed statement. "It is critical that Canada's investigation proceed and the perpetrators be brought to justice," Ms Watson said.

The UK Government said the "serious allegations" over the murder of a Sikh separatist leader in Canada will not impact its own ongoing trade negotiations with India.

"We are in close touch with our Canadian partners about these serious allegations," a UK government spokesperson said.

"It would be inappropriate to comment further during the ongoing investigation by the Canadian authorities," the spokesperson said.

Later, when Sunak's spokesperson was pressed on the matter, he said work on the trade negotiations with India "continue as before".

India and the UK earlier this month agreed to continue to work at pace towards a "landmark" free trade agreement (FTA).

WOMEN'S QUOTA BILL TABLED

The first Census after 2026 was to be carried out in 2031, which would be followed by delimitation or redrawing of constituencies.

The Government postponed the 2021 census exercise in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. It will have to be put on a fast track by the Government for the Women's reservation to be turned into reality before the 2029 Lok Sabha elections. In 2011, the census was carried out in February-March and the provisional figures were released on March 31 that year.

There have been several attempts to introduce the Women's Reservation Bill in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies since 1996. The last such

attempt was made in 2010, when the Rajya Sabha had passed a Bill for women's reservation, but the same could not be passed in the Lok Sabha.

The current Bill proposes that the reservation will continue for a period of 15 years and there will be a quota for SC/STs within the reserved seats for women.

The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2023, was listed for introduction in the Lower House through a supplementary list of business.

The reservation of "as nearly as may be, one-third of the total number of seats to be filled by direct election" will come into effect after a delimitation exercise is undertaken and will continue for 15 years. Seats reserved for women will be rotated after each subsequent delimitation exercise, according to the bill.

In the Lok Sabha, Home Minister Amit Shah rejected Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury's claim that the 2008 brought by the Manmohan Singh Government was still live after being passed by the Rajya Sabha in 2010. Later, Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said the Bill had lapsed after the dissolution of the 15 Lok Sabha as after being passed by the Rajya Sabha it had become the property of the lower house.

Then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi first introduced Constitution Amendment Bills for one-third reservation in panchayats and nagarpalikas in May 1989. It was passed by Lok Sabha but failed in Rajya Sabha in September 1989. Later, Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao reintroduced Constitution Amendment Bills for one-third reservation for women in panchayats and nagarpalikas in April 1993. Both bills became law.

LET COMMANDER KILLED, ANANTNAG OPERATION ENDS

security personnel sacrificed their lives

in the Kokernag encounter.

According to police records, Uzair Kham, a resident of Nagam area of Kokernag, was "A Plus" category terrorist and carried a reward of ₹10 lakh on his head.

He joined the ranks of a pro-Pakistan terrorist outfit in June 2022 after he went missing from his residence in the same month.

Since October 2021, a total number of 31 soldiers, including senior officers have made supreme sacrifices in seven operations.

In contrast, only four terrorists were neutralised in only two out of these seven operations. In five other operations, the search and combing operations were called off after different intervals without any major success.

However, in the Kokernag operation, the Indian Army mobilised massive resources after suffering huge losses to hunt down the terrorists, believed to be hiding inside the natural cave-like structures.

To counter the challenges of tough terrain, the Army authorities also resorted to the use of Heron drones and other surveillance equipment to smoke out the hiding terrorists. To avoid any collateral damage the joint teams relied more on surveillance equipment before zeroing in on the target.

Briefing media persons after the operations were called off on Tuesday, Additional Director General of Police, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said, "Lashkar-e-Tayeeba (LeT) commander Uzair Khan was among the two terrorists killed in a gunfight in Jammu & Kashmir's Anantnag district that ended after seven days, on Tuesday.

"Till now, LeT commander Uzair Khan's body has been recovered. The dead body of another terrorist is visible, but it has not been possible to retrieve it yet," the ADGP told reporters in Anantnag.

He said the gunfight, which began in the Garol forest area of the south Kashmir district on Wednesday last week, is over, but the search operation will continue. There is a huge area that

remains to be searched. There can be a lot of unexploded shells which will be recovered and destroyed. We appeal to the people not to go to the area," he added.

The ADGP said security forces had reports that two to three terrorists were there. "There is a possibility that the third dead body may be somewhere. It will be known after the search is complete," Kumar said.

During the last week, the entire Garol forest area was cut off from the district headquarters after the anti-terrorist operations were launched.

Reinforcements were rushed in to plug the possible escape routes of terrorists.

MODI UNVEILS HIS VISION IN NEW PARLIAMENT

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla announced that henceforth, terms such as "House", "Lobby", and "Galleries" used in the proceedings of the Lok Sabha will refer to the new building, which is now the Parliament House of India.

Led by Modi, several MPs walked from the old to the new Parliament building on Tuesday to attend the sitting in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha chambers in the new complex. Modi, flanked by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP chief JP Nadda, walked from the old Parliament building to the new one, with NDA MPs following them while raising slogans such as 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' and 'Vande Matram'.

Lok Sabh Speaker Om Birla also walked to the new Parliament separately.

Holding a copy of the Constitution, Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury along with Rahul Gandhi and several other Congress and Opposition leaders, walked in new building.

Addressing first in the Lok Sabha, Modi urged the members to reaffirm the commitment to make India a developed nation by 2047 and described the move

to the new Parliament building as a new beginning towards a new future.

"We have a rich heritage! If this rich heritage is joined in by our dreams, our resolutions, and if our canvas of thinking expands, we will certainly be able to paint picture of 'Bhavya Bharat', we will certainly be able to fill colours in this picture, and offer this beautiful, colourful and grand picture of 'Maa Bharti' to our future generations," he said.

Initiating the first day of the proceedings, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla urged on members to set a new standard of parliamentary debate by raising people's issues, as he extended greetings of Ganesh Chaturthi, and called the move to the new parliament house a historic event.

Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar stressed that it was right time to bury the strategy of "weaponising disturbances and disruptions in parliamentary functioning" as these are antithetical to democratic values. "This can never have sanction of our people," he said.

BJP MP Maneka Gandhi said she is proud to be part of the moment when the government will be giving women "an equal share in future of India." The senior Parliamentarian said she entered Parliament at age of 32, nine years after her husband Sanjay Gandhi's death, and has spent most of her adult life in this Parliament building. "I have seen seven prime ministers and shaping of grand history," she said.

The Prime Minister said the new Parliament building reflects the aspirations of 140 crore Indians. "When we are starting a new chapter, we should forget all past bitterness," he said at Lok Sabha.

Modi said that the grandeur of the new building anoints 'Amrit Kaal' and remembered the hard work of 'Shramiks' and engineers who kept working on the building even during the Covid pandemic. He informed that more than 30,000 'Shramiks' contributed in the construction of the building and mentioned the presence of a digital book carrying the full details of the labourers.

Biden lauds G20 achievements

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

US President Joe Biden on Tuesday highlighted “groundbreaking” achievements — including an economic corridor linking India, the Middle East and Europe; and admission of the African Union in the G20 grouping — made at the G20 Summit in New Delhi, as he addressed world leaders at the high-level UN General Assembly session.

The annual G20 Leaders’ Summit was hosted by India under its presidency from September 9-10.

“In groundbreaking effort, we announced at the G20 to connect India to Europe through the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Israel,” Biden said in his address to Heads of State and Government at the 193-member UN General Assembly on the opening day of the General Debate.

He said this would “spur opportunities” for investment across two continents.

“This is part of our effort to build a more sustainable, integrated Middle East. It demonstrates how Israel has a greater normal-

isation and economic connection with its neighbours” which will bring positive and practical impacts.

The ambitious India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) was jointly announced by the leaders of the US, India, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, France, Germany, Italy and the European Union on the sidelines of the G20 summit.

The new economic corridor is seen as an alternative to China’s controversial Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

The IMEC is expected to stimulate economic development through enhanced connectivity and economic integration between Asia, the Arabian Gulf, and Europe.

The IMEC will comprise two separate corridors, the east corridor connecting India to the Arabian Gulf and the northern corridor connecting the Arabian Gulf to Europe.

It will include a railway that, upon completion, will provide a reliable and cost-effective cross-border ship-to-rail transit network to supplement existing maritime and road transport routes — enabling goods and

services to transit to, from, and between India, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Israel, and Europe, the Memorandum of Understanding on the Principles of an India – Middle East – Europe Economic Corridor said.

In his address from the iconic UN General Assembly podium, Biden also referred to the admission of the African Union to the G20 during the summit.

“We strengthened the G20 as a vital forum, welcoming the African Union as a permanent member. By upgrading and strengthening our institutions, that’s only half of the picture. We must also forge new partnerships, confront new challenges,” he said. Referring to the Quad, Biden said in the Indo-Pacific, “We’ve elevated our Quad partnership with India, Japan, Australia to deliver concrete progress for the people of the region, on everything from vaccines to maritime security.” The Quad comprises Japan, India, Australia and the United States.

Biden travelled to New Delhi to attend the G20 Leaders’ Summit that culminated in the successful adoption by consensus of a joint declaration.

In a significant milestone under India’s G20 presidency, the African Union became a new permanent member of the grouping of the largest economies of the world during the summit in Delhi. It was the first expansion of the influential bloc since its inception in 1999.

All member countries of the G20 accepted Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s proposal to bring the key bloc of the Global South to the high table of the world’s top economies.

In his inaugural remarks at the Summit, Modi had asked the President of the Union of Comoros and Chairperson of the African Union (AU) Azali Assoumani to join other leaders at the high table, making the 55-member bloc the second multinational grouping, after the EU, to be a permanent member of the G20.

Biden also reiterated Washington’s support for reform of the UN Security Council, with expansion in both permanent and non-permanent members.

“Simply put, the 21st century results are badly needed to move us along. That starts with

the United Nations, starts right here in this room. In my address to this body last year, I announced the United States will support expanding the Security Council, increasing the number of permanent and non-permanent members,” he said.

Biden underlined that the US has undertaken serious consultation with many member states. “We’ll continue to do our part to push more reform efforts forward,” he said.

He said Washington recognises that to meet the “new challenges of our decades-old institutions and approaches, they must be updated to keep pace with the world.”

“We have to bring in more leadership and capability that exists everywhere, especially from regions that have not always been fully included. We have to grapple with the challenges that are more connected and more complex. We have to make sure we’re delivering for people everywhere, not just somewhere, everywhere,” Biden said.

He emphasises that nations have to look for points of common ground and make progress in the year ahead.

Russia launches massive drone attack on western city of Lviv

AP ■ LVIY

Russia launched a massive drone attack on the western city of Lviv early Tuesday, damaging a warehouse facility in a fiery blaze and killing one man, Ukrainian authorities said. Ukraine intercepted 27 of 30 Shaped drones overnight, the Air Force said. But drones that got through air defense systems sparked an inferno at the industrial storage facility that was not used for military purposes, Gov. Maksym Kozzytsky said. An artillery strike in Kherson in the south struck a bus, killing a police sergeant and wounding two men, said Ihor Klymenko, Ukraine’s minister of internal affairs. That strike also set a warehouse on fire. The developments in the war front came as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was in New York to address the UN General Assembly and Security Council before going to Washington on Thursday to meet with lawmakers and President Joe Biden. Zelenskyy



Emergency services work to extinguish a fire after a Russian attack in Lviv, Ukraine, on Tuesday. Agencies

has continued to drum up funding and support for new weapons as the counteroffensive Ukraine launched in June approaches what could be its final weeks before wet weather slows progress. Ukraine has made small advances but no major breakthroughs. Meanwhile, US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin said, while in Germany attending the

meeting of the Ukraine Defence Contact Group, that the 31 M1 Abrams tanks it promised will soon begin arriving in Ukraine, as was expected. Norway said it will donate approximately 50 tracked cargo carriers to Ukraine. In a statement Tuesday, Norwegian Defence Minister Bjørn Arild Gram said it would help get supplies to areas without roads.

Erdogan says he trusts Russia as much as he trusts West

AP ■ ISTANBUL

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said that he trusts Russia as much he trusts the West. Explaining his recent meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Erdogan said he had failed to get him to resume the Black Sea grain deal the Kremlin withdrew from in July but had elicited a pledge for Russia to supply 1 million tons of grain to Africa.

“I have no reason not to trust them,” Erdogan said during an interview late Monday with US broadcaster PBS in New York, where he is attending the UN General Assembly.

“To the extent the West is reliable, Russia is equally reliable. For the last 50 years, we have been waiting at the doorstep of the EU and, at this moment in time, I trust Russia just as much as I trust the West.” Ankara has maintained close ties with both Russia and Ukraine during the 19-month war. In July last year,

Turkiye and the UN engineered a deal to allow Ukrainian grain to be safely shipped from its Black Sea ports, helping alleviate a global food crisis.

Moscow pulled out of the agreement two months ago, claiming a parallel deal to allow its exports of foodstuffs and fertiliser had not been honoured. Erdogan is visiting New York four months after winning elections that extended his 20-year rule for another five years.

His fresh mandate has seen signs of an improvement in Ankara’s often fractious relationship with the West.

at an event on Monday, the Turkish leader appeared to roll back comments he made immediately prior to his departure for New York, in which he suggested Turkey could end its 24-year bid for European Union membership. “We see that a window of opportunity has opened for the revitalization of Turkey-European Union relations in a

critical period,” Erdogan said, according to a text of the meeting published by his office.

“We continue to emphasize the importance of revitalizing Turkey’s EU accession process.”

Erdogan also indicated improving ties with Washington, which has recently focused on Ankara’s approval of Sweden’s NATO membership application and a possible deal to supply Turkey with F-16 fighter jets.

“We are pleased with the development of our cooperation with the US,” Erdogan said. “We have resolved most of the deadlocks during the talks with Mr. Biden and we have decided to hold more talks in line with the positive agenda.” Turkey and Hungary are the only NATO members not to have approved Sweden’s bid to join the defence alliance, which Stockholm made following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. The issue is due to be debated by the Turkish parliament when it returns from recess next month.

US defence chief urges nations give Ukraine air defence systems

AP ■ RAMSTEIN AIR BASE

Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin urged allied leaders on Tuesday to “dig deep” and provide more air defence systems for Ukraine, to help the country block increasing barrages of Russian missiles. But while the allies said they will discuss how they can best help Ukraine’s counteroffensive, they appeared no closer to commitments on the longer-range missiles that Kyiv’s leaders insist they need.

“Air defence is saving lives,” Austin said as he opened the meeting of the Ukraine Defence Contact Group at Ramstein air base in Germany.

“So I urge this group to continue to dig deep on ground-based air defence for Ukraine. We must continue to push hard to provide Ukraine with air-defence systems and interceptors.” The group is made up of the defense and military leaders

from more than 50 nations and is the main forum for raising contributions of weapons, other equipment and training for Kyiv’s war effort. It meets about once a month, in person and virtually, and this is the 15th gathering. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and other Ukrainian leaders have repeatedly pushed for the longer-distance weapons. Proponents have argued that Ukrainian forces need to be able to strike Russian troops and facilities while still staying out of range.

But the US has continued to balk, expressing longstanding worries that Kyiv could use the weapons to hit deep into Russian territory and enrage Moscow. The Army Tactical Missile System, known as ATACMS, could give Ukraine the ability to strike Russian targets from as far away as about 180 miles (300 kilometers), but the US also has other variants of the missile that have a shorter

range.

Speaking before the meeting began, Bill Blair, the Canadian defence minister, told reporters that the allies are listening to Ukrainian leaders’ descriptions of their military needs and are discussing “new and important ways” to help bolster the ongoing counteroffensive. Austin said the 31 M1 Abrams tanks promised months ago will soon begin arriving in Ukraine, as has been expected. A defence official said they have arrived in Europe and will begin crossing the border into Ukraine within the coming days. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the precise location of the tanks is sensitive.

Ukrainian troops began training on similar tanks in June, while the ones arriving soon were being refurbished in the US. Defence leaders are working to continue what they say is unbowed support of

Ukraine, despite growing worries that public and international government backing for the war, which is well into its second year, may be starting to wane.

Zelenskyy will be in Washington, DC, later this week to meet with President Joe Biden and congressional leaders in a move to shore up support for continued American funding and weapons. The visit comes as there is a growing partisan divide in Congress over continued Ukraine funding.

Republican House Speaker Kevin McCarthy has told reporters that he wants more aid for Ukraine to be debated on its own merits as a standalone bill, rather than attaching it to other priorities like government funding. But Senate leaders want to combine the aid with other priorities, such as a short-term spending bill that will likely be needed to avoid a shutdown at the end of September.

Ex-Belarusian operative under Lukashenko goes on Swiss trial

AP ■ GENEVA

A former member of the Belarusian President Aleksander Lukashenko’s special security forces was going on trial on Tuesday in Switzerland over the enforced disappearances of political opponents in the late 1990s — seen as a landmark case of international justice.

Yuri Harauski, a former member of a military unit known as SOBR, exited a tinted-window van wearing a hood as he entered the courthouse in the northern city of St. Gallen.

Activists have said the two-day trial marks a pivotal moment in international justice that could trigger prosecutions abroad of other Belarusian officials — including Lukashenko. The court case was brought under a rarely applied legal principle known as universal jurisdiction, under which foreign courts can prosecute severe crimes that happened in other countries.

Harauski will be tried over the enforced disappearances of Yuri Zakharenko, a former interior minister who was fired by Lukashenko in 1996; opposition leader Viktor Gonchar; and publisher Anatoly Krasnovsky, said Trial International, an advocacy group that has spearheaded the case.

The defendant lives in Switzerland, where he applied for asylum in 2018. He has made high-profile confessions about his involvement in the kidnapping and murder of Lukashenko’s political opponents in 1999. The motives behind the confessions were not entirely clear. An extract of the court filing, obtained by The Associated Press, indicated that prosecutors planned to seek a three-year prison sentence — of which two would be suspended — against Harauski for his alleged role in the disappearances.

‘Russia, China must edge closer’

AP ■ MOSCOW

A senior Kremlin official on Tuesday called for closer policy coordination between Moscow and Beijing to counter what he described as Western efforts to contain them as he hosted China’s top diplomat for security talks. Nikolai Patrushev, the secretary of Russia’s Security Council chaired by President Vladimir Putin, told Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi that Moscow “seeks progressive development and strengthening of the Russian-Chinese relations of comprehensive partnership, and strategic cooperation.”

“Amid the campaign unleashed by the collective West that is aimed at the double containment of Russia and China, it’s particularly important to further deepen Russian-Chinese coordination

and interaction on the international arena,” Patrushev said.

He noted that Putin is set to hold “substantive” talks with Chinese leader Xi Jinping during next month’s trip to Beijing to attend a summit of the Chinese Belt and Road infrastructure initiative.

Patrushev, a longtime Putin associate, reaffirmed Russia’s “invariable” support for Beijing’s policy on issues related to Taiwan, the western Xinjiang region and Hong Kong, which he said “are being used by the West to discredit China.”

China claims Taiwan as part of its territory and has conducted increasingly large military drills in the air and waters around the island. Chinese authorities also have sought to eradicate any possibility of unrest in regions that are home to sizeable ethnic and religious groups, includ-

ing Tibetans and the Uyghur community in Xinjiang, north of Tibet, the harsh policies that have drawn strong criticism from the West.

The Kremlin has continuously expressed support for Beijing as Russia and China have grown increasingly close while their relations with the West deteriorate.

Last month, China helped engineer an expansion of the BRICS partnership, which invited six more countries to join what has been a five-nation bloc that includes China, Russia, Brazil, India and South Africa.

Beijing has sought to project itself as neutral in the Ukraine conflict, even while it has refused to condemn Moscow’s actions and declared last year that it had a “no-limits” friendship with Russia. China has denounced Western sanctions against Moscow, and

accused NATO and the United States of provoking Putin’s military action.

Beijing has also proposed a peace plan that was largely dismissed by Ukraine’s allies that insist that Moscow must withdraw its forces from the neighbouring country.

Wang arrived in Russia on Monday on a four-day visit following his weekend talks with US President Joe Biden’s national security adviser in Malta. He began his trip by conferring with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

“The more violent the unilateral actions of hegemony and bloc confrontation become, the more important for us to keep up with the times, show a sense of duty as great powers, and further fulfil our international obligations,” Wang said at the start of Monday’s talks with Lavrov.

Indian-origin expert joins UK panel to review clashes in Leicester

PTI ■ LONDON

Dr Samir Shah, an Indian-origin race relations expert has been named on a three-member panel set up by the UK government to independently review the unrest that took place in the city of Leicester last year as community groups clashed in the aftermath of an India-Pakistan Asia Cup cricket match in Dubai. Shah, conferred a CBE (Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) honour by the late Queen Elizabeth II in 2019 for services to heritage and television, will join fellow expert panellists to publish their findings by next year, the UK government said on Monday.

Shah, in his 70s, has experience conducting such

reviews as a former Commissioner for the UK’s Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities. He was also the former chair of the country’s independent race equality think tank, the Runnymede Trust, for 10 years and was a member of the Holocaust Commission.

“Leicester has a proud history of diversity, tolerance and community cohesion, which makes what happened last year all the more troubling,” said Lord Ian Austin, the chair of the review announced by the government in May.

“We want to listen to people in Leicester to understand last year’s events, what can be learned from them and how communities in the city can work together to prevent problems in future. It is, therefore,

vital that the review is comprehensive and even-handed and that this aim is reflected in the panellists we appoint,” he said.

“The diverse panel brings together a wealth of experience and knowledge, which should result in an honest, frank and productive review,” he added. Hilary Pilkington, Professor of Sociology at the University of Manchester and Fellow of the UK Academy of Social Sciences, whose research focus covers the study of youth participation, activism, stigmatisation and extremism in the UK, is another expert on the panel. They are joined by Dr Shaaz Mahboob, Head of Digital Development at NHS England and Trustee of British Muslims for Secular Democracy for 10 years until 2018.

Lanka gazettes Online Safety Bill, opp flays

Colombo (PTI): The Sri Lankan government gazetted the Online Safety Bill on Tuesday, drawing criticism from the Opposition, who labelled it harmful to the freedom of expression guaranteed in the Constitution. Gazetted by the Minister of Public Security, the bill aims to establish the Online Safety Commission, make provisions to prohibit online communication of certain statements of fact in Sri Lanka and prevent the use of online accounts and inauthentic online accounts for restricted purposes. It also makes provisions to identify and declare online locations used for prohibited purposes in the island nation, suppress the financing, and other support of communication. The Opposition leader, Sajith said the new bill aims to curb the people’s right to create social platforms for organising themselves.

Google brings its AI chatbot ‘Bard’

AP ■ NEW YORK

Google is introducing Bard, its artificially intelligent chatbot, to other members of its digital family — including Gmail, Maps and YouTube — as it seeks ward off competitive threats posed by similar technology run by Open AI and Microsoft.

Bard’s expanded capabilities announced Tuesday will be provided through an English-only extension that will enable users to allow the chatbot to mine information embedded in their Gmail accounts as well as pull directions from Google Maps and find helpful videos on YouTube. The extension will also open a door for Bard to fetch travel information from Google Flights and extract information from documents stored on Google Drive.

Google is promising to protect users’ privacy by prohibiting



human reviewers from seeing the potentially sensitive information that Bard gets from Gmail or Drive, while also promising that the data won’t be used as part of the main way the Mountain View, California, company makes money — selling ads tailored to people’s interests.

The expansion is the latest development in an escalating AI battle triggered by the popularity of OpenAI’s ChatGPT chatbot and Microsoft’s push to infuse similar technology in its Bing search engine and its

Microsoft 365 suite that includes its Word, Excel and Outlook applications. ChatGPT prompted Google to release Bard broadly in March and then start testing the use of more conversational AI within its own search results in May.

The decision to feed Bard more digital juice in the midst of a high-profile trial that could eventually hobble the ubiquitous Google search engine that propels the USD 1.7 trillion empire of its corporate parent, Alphabet Inc. In the biggest US antitrust

case in a quarter century, the US Justice Department is alleging Google has created its lucrative search monopoly by abusing its power to stifle competition and innovation. Google contends it dominates search because its algorithms produce the best results. It also argues it faces a wide variety of competition that is becoming more intense with the rise of AI. Giving Bard access to a trove of personal information and other popular services such as Gmail, Google Maps and YouTube, in theory, will make them even more helpful and prod more people to rely in them. Google, for instance, posits that Bard could help a user planning a group trip to the Grand Canyon by getting dates that would work for everyone, spell out different flight and hotel options, provide directions from Maps and present an array of informative videos from YouTube.

London police force says it will take years to root out bad cops

London: London’s police force says that over 1,000 officers are currently suspended or on restricted duties as the department steps up efforts to root out bad cops following a scathing report that found it was institutionally racist, homophobic and misogynistic.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Stuart Cundy said it will take years for the Metropolitan Police Service to get rid of officers who have breached standards or weren’t properly vetted before they were hired, with about 60 officers facing disciplinary hearings each month.

“This is going to take one, two or more years to root out those who are corrupt,” Cundy said in a statement released on Tuesday. AP

Iraq prez to summon Turkish ambassador

Baghdad (AP): The Iraqi president announced Tuesday that he will summon Turkey’s ambassador and hand him a formal letter of protest over recent Turkish airstrikes on Iraqi territory. The official protest came a day after an airstrike on a military airport in Arbat, southeast of the city of Sulaymaniyah in northern Iraq’s semi-autonomous Kurdish region.

Three members of the region’s counterterrorism force died and three of the Kurdish Peshmerga forces were wounded, according to local officials. “Day after day, systematic military attacks on Iraqi territory, specifically in (the Kurdish) region, are escalating without military or security justification,” Iraqi President Abdul Latif Rashid said in a statement. The “aggression targeted innocent

civilians and military and security headquarters,” he said. Rashid belongs to the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) party, which has its main seat of power in Sulaymaniyah. There was no immediate comment from Turkey.

The targeted airport had recently undergone rehabilitation to facilitate the training of anti-terror units affiliated with the PUK, one of the two often-competing main parties in the region. Bafel Talabani, the party’s leader, in an official statement on Monday labelled the Turkish attack as part of a series of “conspiracies” aimed at jeopardising Kurdistan’s security. He urged the federal government to “uphold its constitutional and national duties” in safeguarding Iraq’s territory and airspace, specifically in the Kurdish region.

Kane set out for only trophy that truly matters

AP ■ MUNICH

Harry Kane's Bayern Munich host Manchester United on Wednesday, kick-starting their campaign in the competition which matters most to them this season.

Despite domestic dominance which has seen Bayern win the past 11 Bundesliga titles, the club judges itself on its performances in the Champions League.

Since winning in Lisbon in 2020, Bayern have been eliminated at the quarter-final stage of the Champions League for three straight years.

These early eliminations led to the exits of former managers Hansi Flick and Julian Nagelsmann.

Current Bayern boss Thomas Tuchel, who took over from a sacked Nagelsmann who had won eight from eight in the Champions League, is aware that making it at least to the semis is considered par for the course in Munich.

While this understanding is not new for Bayern or indeed any of the handful of modern superclubs where domestic success is assured, the big money addition of Kane makes winning now a necessity.



100 MILLION REASONS

Bayern broke their transfer record to lure Kane from Tottenham in the summer, paying 100 million euros (\$108 million) for the 30-year-old England captain.

With Bundesliga titles and

German Cups finding their way to Munich more often than not, Kane's move to Bayern has clearly boosted his chances of capturing that elusive first trophy.

But only by winning the Champions League will his

decision to leave England be seen as an unqualified success.

The England captain said as much when unveiled in Munich, explaining "I want to play for the Champions League title, that's why I came to Bayern."

Kane has shown few difficulties adjusting to life in Germany, having scored four goals in his first four league matches.

Kane said on Monday he was looking forward to "something special" in his first

Champions League match for Bayern -- and first against Premier League opposition since arriving in Munich.

The striker told Germany's Sports Illustrated that he "wants to get the supporters behind us as early as possible and

approach the game with a lot of intensity."

Early starts are common for Bayern in the Champions League. The six-time winners have won their opening match for the past 19 seasons.

Bayern will however need to see the match through without Tuchel, who saw red as his side was eliminated by eventual champions Man City last season.

Tuchel will watch from the stands, with his assistant Zsolt Low taking the reins.

Typically fiery, Tuchel has pointed much of his scorn at his own club this season, particularly after Bayern failed to sign a defensive midfielder.

Bayern had tried -- the club brought Fulham's Joao Palhinha to Munich on deadline day and had the Portugal star taking pictures in club shirts on deadline day -- but the deal broke down and the midfielder flew back to London.

Despite netting Kane, Serie A defender of the year Kim Min-Jae and a host of other useful additions, Tuchel hit out at the club, calling the club "gutsy" for giving him such a "thin" squad.

"We will see if it's enough for the club's targets this season."

While squad complaints are a sport of their own for modern managers, letting go of

Benjamin Pavard, Ryan Gravenberch, Lucas Hernandez, Josip Stanisic and to a lesser extent Marcel Sabitzer and Sadio Mane could come back to haunt the side once the games start coming thick and fast.

WARY OF UNITED

Bayern and Man United are two of the most successful clubs in football history and have a strong rivalry of their own, headlined by the Red Devils' remarkable last-minute victory in the 1999 Champions League final.

They have however started the year in contrasting fashion.

While only goal difference is keeping Bayern from the top of the Bundesliga after an unbeaten start, United have stumbled out of the blocks this season.

Despite a strong opening season under former Bayern second-division coach Erik ten Hag, United have lost three of five league games this season and sit in the bottom half of the table.

Kane however said Bayern should be wary, saying on Monday "I know Manchester United are having a difficult time at the moment, but sometimes teams like that are dangerous because they're looking to come back in a big way."



Rice ready for first taste of Champions League

AP ■ LONDON

Mikel Arteta expects Declan Rice to play a pivotal role in Arsenal's return to the Champions League as the England midfielder prepares to make his debut in the tournament against PSV Eindhoven on Wednesday.

The Gunners are back in the Champions League for the first time since 2016/17, giving Rice his first taste of Europe's elite club competition after his close-season move from West Ham.

Arteta splashed out £100 million (\$124 million) on the midfielder precisely for occasions such as PSV's visit to the Emirates Stadium in Arsenal's opening Group B fixture.

Arteta believes Rice's astute reading of the game and unflappable demeanour strengthens his team. And the Arsenal boss said his new signing can also be a regular goal threat.

"For sure and when you see the technical ability that he has and how he executed it in this moment, his range when he's shooting from range, his accuracy, the power that he generates with no space, with both legs, he can do it with both feet. He's got the timing to arrive in the box."

Along with helping Arsenal challenge for the title -- the north Londoners are two points behind leaders Manchester City after Sunday's 1-0 win at Everton -- Rice will be firmly in the spotlight in the Champions League.

Having played his entire career with West Ham until this season, he has never experienced the thrill of lining up while the

Champions League anthem booms out before kick-off.

But he will finally be able to tick that off his bucket list on Wednesday.

"I'm so excited for that. I've said for many years now that I've wanted to play in the Champions League," Rice said. "I've wanted to push myself at the biggest level. This opportunity at Arsenal has arisen. It's a great club."

Rice has already made his mark in continental action, captaining West Ham to their first major trophy since 1980 last season when they won the Europa Conference League.

He has made his mark for England as well, featuring as the fulcrum of Gareth Southgate's midfield in their run to the European Championship final in 2021 and impressing at last year's World Cup.

Despite their lengthy absence from the Champions League, the Gunners are expected to progress from a relatively undemanding group featuring Sevilla and Lens as well as PSV.

But Rice knows he must use Arsenal's opening group fixtures to show he can dominate at the highest level, with his sights already set on inspiring his side to a maiden Champions League triumph.

"At the end of the day you get one career, and I want to be as successful as I can with Arsenal, make as many Champions League appearances as possible and hopefully one day get my hands on that trophy," he said.

Bellingham ready for 'real' Madrid debut

AP ■ MADRID

Jude Bellingham scored for Real Madrid on his debut, and in four of the five matches which have followed, in a superb start to life in the Spanish capital for the former Birmingham boy.

The England midfielder has five goals in five games in La Liga, taking the Spanish top flight by storm after his 103 million euro (\$110 million) move from Borussia Dortmund this summer.

Real Madrid boast a 100 percent record from their opening raft of domestic games, but their season begins in earnest with the start of the Champions League this week.

Bellingham, 20, is set to make his 'second' debut for Los Blancos against Union Berlin on Wednesday at the Santiago Bernabeu, in the competition they value above all others.

The record 14-time European champions were thrashed 4-0 by Manchester City in the second leg of last season's semi-final, 5-1 on aggregate, with Bellingham's purchase in part a response to that stinging defeat.

Madrid have started reducing minutes for their veteran players in midfield -- Luka Modric and Toni Kroos -- while allowing Bellingham, Eduardo Camavinga, Aurelien Tchouameni and Fede Valverde more opportunities.



Bellingham adds to the tougher core Madrid sport this season, shorn of Ballon d'Or winner Karim Benzema, who departed for a new adventure in Saudi Arabian football in the summer.

Facing a Bundesliga side in Europe, Bellingham should feel comfortable -- although it has been clear that he has already made himself at home.

Bellingham's goals have replaced Benzema's -- he has played more like the French forward than Les Bleus icon Zidane since joining the club.

Real Madrid were linked with Paris Saint-Germain striker Kylian Mbappe this summer, who has made it clear he was keen on joining Los Blancos.

However with Mbappe's contract due to expire at the end of the season it would have been a big and potentially unnecessary investment for Madrid, which they thought better of.

Bellingham's goals were the final nail in that coffin as he showed he can make the difference in the opposition box in the attacking position Ancelotti has created for him.

Perhaps Mbappe will arrive next summer, and perhaps a new coach will change Bellingham's role once Ancelotti takes over the Brazilian national team, but in the short term, the current set up has suited coach and player just fine.

China beat under-prepared India 5-1 in Asian Games

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

A severely-fatigued and under-prepared Indian team got a rude reality check with hosts China out-muscling them 5-1 in an opening group league encounter of the Asian Games football competition here on Tuesday.

Giao Tianyi (17th min), Dai Weijun (51st min), Tao Qianglong (72nd and 75th minute) and Hao Fang (90+2) scored for the hosts, while Rahul KP's (45+1 minute) equaliser from an acute angle was possibly the best strike of the match.

It was heartening to see a third-string team holding the title contenders on an even keel during the first 45 minutes, which saw Indian custodian Gurmeet Singh Chahal valiantly save a spot-kick taken by rival captain Zhu Chenjie.

India now need to beat Bangladesh and Myanmar in their remaining two games to qualify for the second round. Myanmar beat Bangladesh 4-2 in another game in this group.

Having reached the Games Village late on Monday evening, the third-string Indian team, with not even four specialist

defenders in their ranks, didn't have enough co-ordination amongst themselves. They looked jet-lagged, not rested enough and there was no way that there could have been a miracle.

The gulf in class and quality was evident and most of the Chinese attacks happened from India's wide left (China's right flank) side, which was being manned by Sumit Rath. It became a free-ride for the Chinese attackers.

Also, the humidity and lack of training time had its

effect as the Indians didn't have the legs to last beyond the first hour. And, once the second goal was scored due to Sandesh Jhingan's poor anticipation, the floodgates opened.

Jhingan was also responsible for another goal when he had a brain fade and wanted to dribble his team past the danger in his own penalty box and committed harakiri.

A lot of players suffered from cramps due to humidity and, obviously, not having enough time to warm-up.

Indian men's hockey team leaves for Asian Games

PTI ■ BENGALURU

The Indian men's hockey team will look to extend its impressive run at the Asian Games in Hangzhou beginning September 23.

India will begin their campaign against Uzbekistan on September 24. India are placed in Pool A, alongside Pakistan, Japan, Bangladesh, Singapore,

and Uzbekistan. Pool B consists of Korea, Malaysia, China, Oman, Thailand, and Indonesia.

The top two teams from each Pool will qualify for the semifinals.

Harmanpreet Singh will lead the team once again, with Hardik serving as his deputy.

"The team has been rigorously preparing for the Asian

Games and we performed well at the recently concluded Asian Champions Trophy Chennai, so the goal is to maintain that level of performance," said Harmanpreet before the Indian team left for Hangzhou. "We have some tough opponents in our Pool, but we are confident in our preparation and hope to finish on the podium."

The team includes goalkeepers PR Sreejesh and Krishan Pathak. Varun Kumar, Amit Rohidas, Jarnanpreet Singh, Harmanpreet Singh, and Sanjay are the defenders selected for the Asian Games.

The midfield will be anchored by Nilakanta Sharma, Hardik Singh, Manpreet Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Sumit, and Shamsher

Singh, while the attack will be led by Abhishek, Gurjant Singh, Mandeep Singh, Sukhjeet Singh, and Lalit Kumar Upadhyay.

"We have had some tough practice sessions in the lead-up to the tournament and everyone in camp is focused, working towards the same goal," vice-captain Hardik said.

LOCAL EVENTS



JYOTI TO LEAD

Jyoti Shukla of Indian Railways will lead the Indian women's handball team in the Asian Games 2022 to be held in Hangzhou, China from September 23 to October. Shiva Singh and Tejaswini Singh of Uttar Pradesh will also repre-

sent the country. President of Uttar Pradesh Handball Association Alka Das congratulated the selected players at a farewell ceremony held in Lucknow. Handball Association India executive director Anandeshwar Pandey, president Digvijay Singh Chautala, treasurer Tejraj Singh and gen-

eral secretary A. Jagannathan Rao also extended their best wishes to the team.

The team: Neena Sheel (West Bengal), Deeksha Kumari, Nidhi Sharma, Shalini Thakur, Bhavana, Mithali Sharma, Priyanka Thakur (Himachal Pradesh), Shiva Singh, Tejaswini Singh (Uttar

Pradesh), Manika, Sushma, Jyoti Shukla, Priyanka (Indian Railways), Sonika, Asha (Haryana), Pooja Kanwar (Rajasthan); **Coaches:** M Karthikeyan, Sachin Chaudhary, Praveen Kumar Singh, Manisha and Atanu .

WEIGHTLIFTING

A two-day District Secondary School Weightlifting Competition was organised at KD Singh 'Babu' Stadium. The event was inaugurated by Principal of Ramadhin Singh Inter College, Shiv Kumar Yadav. **RESULTS: Girls' (45kg)** 1-Arundhati Raj, 2-Vasu; (49 kg) 1-Sunit Verma, 2-Muskaan Mishra; (55kg) 1-Samyak, (+81



1-Swarna Tiwari **Under -17 boys' (49kg)** 1-Aditya Mishra, 2-Sameer Sharma, 3-Zubair Ahmed; (55 kg) 1-Rawat, 2-Ravi, 3-Luvkush Nishad; (61 kg) 1-Anoop

Kumar, 2-Shivam Rawat; (67 kg) 1-Chaitrakant Pal, 2-Rishu Kanojia, 3-Karan Kumar; (73kg) 1-Pushpak Tharu; (81kg) 1-Ritam Kashyap; (102kg) 1-Shaurya Rai.

5 Indians miss FIDE Junior Chess C'ships due to visa issues

PTI ■ CHENNAI

In a major setback, five young Indian chess players will miss the FIDE World Junior Chess Championship in Mexico City from September 22 to October 2 due to visa issues.

Just days before their scheduled departure, the five players, funded by the government, and two coaches did not get their visas on time.

The affected players are Vrashank Chouhan, Arun Kataria, Bhagyashree Patil,

Prraneeth Vuppala and Femil Chelladurai, along with coaches Pravind Thipsay M and Kiran Agrawal.

"Despite the best efforts from the Indian government, we could not get the visas arranged," FIDE advisory board chairman Bharat Singh Chauhan said.

"It's a huge setback for the Indian contingent. It is not good news for the players involved, who will now be missing out on a great international exposure. They were also medal contenders."

ASHWIN BACK IN WORLD CUP RECKONING

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Seasoned off-spinner R Ashwin on Monday made a comeback to the Indian ODI team for the three-match series against Australia and will be competing for a potential World Cup berth with Washington Sundar if Axar Patel doesn't get fit in time for the global event.

Senior players including skipper Rohit Sharma, senior batter Virat Kohli, all-rounder Hardik Pandya and in-form spinner Kuldeep Yadav were rested from the first two games, giving them a chance to get mentally fresh for the mega event.

K L Rahul will lead the side in the first two games against Australia before Rohit returns to lead a full strength squad in the third and final ODI ahead of the World Cup beginning October 5. The squad for the third game is effectively the 15 picked for World Cup and Ashwin and Washington.

Ashwin, who last played an ODI back in January 2022 in South Africa, could be a last minute addition to the World Cup side if Axar doesn't get fit before the September 28 deadline set by the International Cricket Council.

Axar had sustained a quadriceps tear during the recently held Asia Cup in Sri Lanka and missed the final against Sri Lanka on Sunday.

Chief selector Ajit Agarkar said both Ashwin and Washington are in contention for the replacement slot if Axar doesn't recover in time.

"There are couple of guys anyways, him and Washington. Look basically, what is being made known to us about Axar's injury is that he should be okay



and call we will make it once we know that but it leaves us with option to check these guys if they need to go that way," Agarkar told the media during a virtual session.

"If the need arises, we will look at that way but I don't think there is any need to speculate right now because we are hoping that Axar is fit," he added.

When the Ajit Agarkar-led selection panel had picked the 15-man squad for the World Cup at home earlier this month, questions over non selection of an off-spinner were raised with some of the opposition side's top order having multiple left-handers.

After the squad announcement on Monday, captain Rohit

was asked why Ashwin was not part of the Asia Cup squad if he was in the scheme of things. The India skipper responded by saying that a proven performer like Ashwin can be straightaway drafted into the team if the need arises.

Ashwin, who was sidelined from the India ODI set up following the Champions 2017 Trophy, made a recall to the side in January last year for the ODI series in South Africa. He made his comeback after four and a half years only to be sidelined again.

Ashwin's T20 career has also had a similar trajectory with the 37-year-old being left out of the team following the World Cup in Australia last year.

Injury-prone Shreyas Iyer,

who could only play two games in the Asia Cup due to a back spasm, is also available for all three ODIs.

"He got through his batting programme fine and at the moment, he is fit. We hope that he gets through all these three games," said Agarkar.

The first ODI will be played in Mohali on September 22, second in Indore on September 24 and third in Rajkot on September 27.

Following that, India will their two World Cup warm-up games against England and Netherlands on September 30 and October 3 in Guwahati and Trivandrum before playing their tournament opener against Australia in Chennai on October 8.

Squad for the first two ODIs: KL Rahul (captain), Ravindra Jadeja (vice-captain), Ruturaj Gaikwad, Shubman Gill, Shreyas Iyer, Suryakumar Yadav, Tilak Varma, Ishan Kishan (wicketkeeper), Shardul Thakur, Washington Sundar, R Ashwin, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohd. Shami, Mohd. Siraj, Prasidh Krishna.

Squad for third ODI: Rohit Sharma (captain), Hardik Pandya, (vice-captain), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, Suryakumar Yadav, KL Rahul (wicketkeeper), Ishan Kishan (wicketkeeper), Ravindra Jadeja, Shardul Thakur, Axar Patel (subject to fitness), Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, R Ashwin, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohd. Shami, Mohammed Siraj.

With Ashwin, lack of game time is not much of concern: Rohit

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ravichandran Ashwin finds himself in contention for a World Cup spot despite lack of game time but it doesn't concern skipper Rohit Sharma one bit.

The 37-year-old Ashwin, who last played an ODI in January 2022, was picked for the upcoming three ODIs against Australia alongside Washington Sundar. Both the off-spinners will be fighting for that potential World Cup spot if Axar Patel doesn't get fit in time for the global event beginning October 5.

"With the kind of experience Ashwin has, close to 100 Tests (94), close to 150 ODIs (113) and yes it is all in the past but he has been consistently playing Test cricket and with guys like Ashwin having game time is not so much of a concern," said Rohit after the squad was announced for Australia series beginning September 22.

"...With guys like him, it's all in the head, more than body and the stuff. We made the decision speaking to him and understanding where he is at with regards to his body and stuff like that.

"It's not like he is not playing any cricket. Yes, he hasn't played the format but he has been playing Test cricket in West Indies, and if I am not wrong, played T20 as well



and although no comparison there but there is still some cricket there, and it gives us chance to look at how he is bowling," he said.

The selectors have rested in-form Kuldeep Yadav for the first two ODIs.

Asked if that was done to keep an element of surprise in the World Cup, Rohit said, "Kuldeep is a wrist spinner and needs rhythm but we also deliberated that his bowling form is great and as Ajit (chief selector) said we needed to give some of the players chance as they played only one match in Asia Cup and are there in WC squad and we needed to check them as well.

"Kuldeep, we have seen for last 18 months and we didn't want to expose him. He will be playing in the last match and the best decision to see him is in 3rd match. We have two practice games and he will be back in bowling

rhythm," said the skipper.

Rest given to senior players in the first two ODIs will provide opportunity for fringe players like Tilak Varma and Ruturaj Gaikwad.

"Our endeavour is to give everyone a chance. If we only play 11 through the year, then you can't create bench strength. You can see that some other teams are facing injury problems because it also involves lot of travelling and we have to play 11 matches and criss-cross the country," Rohit said when asked about travelling involved over the course of the World Cup.

"So, we will have a lot of travelling and a lot of matches. We want to make sure that some of the guys sitting out have enough confidence by playing a few games and not like suddenly they are thrown in. Eventually players need to be ready and anyone can be called at any time.



Pujara suspended for one game after Sussex docked 12 pts

PTI ■ HOVE

India international Cheteshwar Pujara has been suspended from one county game after his team Sussex was docked 12 points in the County Championship due to a code of conduct breach during the match against Leicestershire.

Pujara received an automatic suspension after the club reached the threshold of four fixed penalties in the same season and won't be available for this week's game against Derbyshire, according to a report in ESPN Cricinfo.

Sussex have also made the decision to stand down three players - Jack Carson, Tom Haines and Ari Karvelas - for behaviour that in the words of head coach, Paul Farbrace, "tarnished" the dramatic 15-run win over Leicestershire last week, the website reported.

"We have made Jack and Tom unavailable for selection for this game at Derbyshire," Farbrace said. "Following the umpires and match referee's decision to charge both players with on-field level one and level two offences, we needed to take a stance, and show them we will not condone such behaviours.

"Ultimately it has cost us the availability of Cheteshwar and we have been deducted 12 points."

Rajinikanth to be 'distinguished guest' during WC: BCCI

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Superstar Rajinikanth will 'grace' next month's ICC World Cup as a "distinguished guest," the BCCI said on Tuesday, while extending him the Golden Ticket that allows unhindered access during the multi-country tournament.

BCCI Honorary Secretary Jay Shah presented the Golden Ticket to the top star, BCCI said on its X handle, sharing a photo of the two.

"The Phenomenon Beyond Cinema! The BCCI Honorary Secretary @JayShah presented the golden ticket to Shri @rajinikanth, the true embodiment of charisma and cinematic brilliance. The legendary actor has left an indelible mark on the hearts of millions, transcending language and culture," it said.

"We are thrilled to announce that Thalaiva will grace the @ICC @cricket-worldcup 2023 as our distinguished guest and will light up the biggest cricketing spectacle with his presence. #GoldenTicket," BCCI added.

The marquee tournament will kick off in Ahmedabad on



October 5, with the 2019 edition finalists-England and New Zealand-facing off in the inaugural tie. The golden tickets are a promotional strategy

used by the BCCI for the showpiece event it is hosting, with the recipients granted VIP treatment during World Cup matches.

Visa issues hit inaugural MotoGP in India

PTI ■ GREATER NOIDA

Some of the riders and team officials bound for the inaugural MotoGP round in India, including six-time champion Marc Marquez, are awaiting their visas ahead of the race this weekend.

Sources in Repsol Honda Team said that the arrival of its riders Marquez and Joan Mir in India has been delayed due to visa issues.

Both the Spanish drivers were scheduled to attend a promotional event near Delhi on Wednesday but now that visit stands cancelled.

"The riders are yet to reach India due to visa issues. So there was no option but to cancel tomorrow's event," a source said.

Dorna Sports are the organisers and rights holders of the event. Fairstreet Sports are the local promoters of the event.

Sources in Fairstreet said that around 1800 visas needed to be applied for personnel in the paddock but a technical glitch in the application system caused the delay. However, sources said, as of Tuesday, most of the visas have been issued barring a few lacking proper documentation.

"The visa were applied on September 5 but due to a technical glitch on the part of the trav-

el agency, the delay happened. 600 visa applications were pending till yesterday, now most of them have been cleared including the visa to Marquez.

"Few individuals who have not filled up the form properly are left. You can't do anything about that as one has to follow law of the land. Majority of the team officials and riders are already here," said a source.

India is hosting an event of this magnitude for the first time since the now defunct Formula 1 Indian Grand Prix. The race was dropped from the calendar following the 2013 season due to financial, taxation and bureaucratic issues.

Dorna and Fairstreet have signed a seven-year MoU for the race in India but the event's future hugely depends on how this weekend unfolds.

Earlier this year, India hosted its first FIA World Championship status in 10 years when the Formula E race was held in Hyderabad. It is unlikely that the championships will return next year after not finding a place on the provisional calendar for 2024.

Formula E was not pleased with how the local organisers left the preparations to the very last minute.

We are world champions, we will be favourites at Asian Games: Sen

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Young star Lakshya Sen said India, the Thomas Cup champions, are favourites to win the Asian Games men's team gold in badminton, and he is also nourishing the dream of meeting compatriot and Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra during the quadrennial event.

Sen, a 2021 world championships bronze medallist, was one of the architects of India's epic Thomas Cup victory in May last year. He said India will be a top contender for the gold at Asian Games.

"Definitely, the team is looking really good. It is the same team that won the Thomas Cup, so we are going as world champions. I think the players who are playing against us know that it is not easy (to defeat India), as we can beat any team in the world," Sen told PTI.

Sen underlined the need for a collective effort at the Asian Games.

"I don't think we lack confidence. We have this camaraderie, and we know how to go about it. All the teams are tough and we have to give our best.

"We will need a good, collective effort to do well there. The whole team is positive and we are hoping for a good result," Sen said.

The 22-year-old from Almora, who won a silver at the 2018 Youth Olympic Games and a gold at the 2022 Commonwealth Games, will be playing only the team championships at the 19th edition of the showpiece.

Finland vs Canada in Davis Cup quarterfinals

AP ■ LONDON

Finland's reward for beating the United States of America and Croatia to reach the knockout stage of the Davis Cup is a quarterfinal match against defending champion Canada. Finland has never reached



"It will be my first experience at the Asian Games. It is a similar kind of atmosphere, like the Commonwealth Games and Youth Olympics. "So I am looking forward to the event and also I will be getting a chance to meet other

Indian and foreign athletes, and learn about their sports and life," said Sen.

"In the Commonwealth Games last year, we were there with the TT contingent, as only we played from the first to last day of the tournament.

Their matches were in next hall. So, I watched a lot of TT matches. I didn't have time to see other events," he said.

Sen, who is currently ranked world no. 11, missed the individual event at the Asian Games after he lost to Kidambi Srikanth in the selection trials in May this year.

Sen hoped that it will give him some to meet Chopra, who will be competing in the javelin throw, in person.

"I'm only playing team event. So, I look forward to meeting Neeraj Chopra. If I get some time, I would love to go and watch him perform and support him.

"I have spoken to him before but never met him in person. So, I am really looking forward to that," he said.

The Indian players, who didn't get time to have a long training session due to busy international schedule, are currently honing their skills in a week-long camp in Hyderabad.

"This time there were some big events like China super 1000 and World Championships, which were kind of unavoidable.

"But we have been competing very recently and it is the same for everyone. The match preparation is there and it is all about playing well on the day.

"It is like a big pressure tournament, a lot of people in India give importance to Asian Games. So, I am going (to the Asian Games) with my full intention and expecting good results," he said.

Badminton events will start with the team competition on September 28.

Tender Cancellation Notice

SS/CW/RR/78/2023/64/7275 Date : 18.09.2023
In reference to the tender no. SS/CW/RR/78/2023/41 dated 28/08/2023 published in the portal www.assamtenders.gov.in, it is for information of the prospective bidders that the tender for the work, 'Repair & renovation works of State Mission Office of Samagra Shiksha, Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19' hereby cancelled due to administrative reasons.

Sd/-Mission Director,
Samagra Shiksha, Assam
Kahilipara, Guwahati-19
Janasanyog/CF/2737/23/20-Sep-2023

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